



## FAMILY WELCOME NOT GUILTY VERDICT IN MANSLAUGHTER TRIAL



Mark Jennens outside court in Wolverhampton

THE family of a man who was found not guilty of killing his mother have welcomed the verdict, saying: "It should never have got this far".

Mark Jennens, aged 40, was on Monday cleared of the manslaughter of his 78-year-old mother Hazel.

Mr Jennens had picked her up by the arms at their home in Sorrel Walk, Brierley Hill, on Christmas Eve, 2015, following a row over the potatoes, before she fell to the ground and broke her hip as he frog-marched her to the door.

But when she died at Russells Hall Hospital on January 20, 2016, from bronchopneumonia, Mr Jennens was charged with her manslaughter. A trial took place at Wolver-

hampton Crown Court last week where the prosecution put forward that the attack was the substantial cause of his mother's death.

But after less than an hour and half of deliberation a jury found Mr Jennens not guilty.

### Tears

He said afterwards: "It was never the thought of prison that bothered me it was the stigma of being the man that killed his own mother."

There were tears of joy from his family in the public gallery who had stuck by him throughout the criminal investigation.

Mr Jennens' sister Dawn said after the verdict: "The whole family have stuck by

Mark. There was no public interest in this case, it was only going to hurt the family."

Another sister, Tracey, said: "It should never have got this far. There is no blame for Mark, he is as gentle as a lamb."

The court had heard that for more than 10 years Mr Jennens had cared for his mother, who suffered from lung cancer and emphysema.

He had suffered a breakdown in 2015 and sought help from social services to care for Hazel, who he said was a 'difficult' woman who could be 'evil' towards him. But she had refused external support.

On the day of the incident Mr Jennens admitted assaulting his mother following a row about Christmas dinner.

### COURT

## Suspect charged over stab attack

A MAN has been charged with attempted murder after a woman and her eight-year-old son were stabbed at Himley Hall.

Ralph Foster, aged 55, was due to appear in court yesterday (Wednesday) in connection with an attack believed to have taken place in the car park of the historic house and park on Sunday evening.

Foster, of Bayswater Road, Gornal Wood, has also been charged with wounding, aggravated vehicle taking, driving without insurance and licence, possession of a bladed item in a public place and interfering with a motor vehicle.

The 30-year-old mother and her son were taken to Sandwell Hospital but their injuries were not life-threatening.

### RETAIL

## New shop brings 20 jobs to centre

ART and craft superstore Hobbycraft has opened a new shop at Merry Hill, creating 20 jobs.

The retailer has taken over a unit next to clothes shop Matalan within the centre. Company bosses revealed they had received more than 550 applications for the 20 roles.

The arrival of Hobbycraft comes after it was announced Next would be moving in to the old Sainsbury's store.

### FATALITY

## Man is released as death not suspicious

THE death of a woman in Dudley, who died from a stab wound, is no longer being treated as suspicious.

Police were called to Hillside Road, Wrens Nest, on July 12 where the 55-year-old woman was found with serious injuries. She died from a single stab wound to the chest. A 65-year-old man was arrested but has since been released without charge.

### INSIDE

## BLACK COUNTRY FESTIVAL FUN



PAGE 2

# Businesses vote to fund a major new initiative

# TOWN CENTRE'S

# £600K BOOST

TRADERS in Halesowen have voted to launch a business improvement district (BID) in their town centre. The move could bring £600,000 of extra investment into the area.

Firms had until last week to vote on the Halesowen BID project and this week chairman of the scheme, Wayne Edwards, announced businesses had voted to back the scheme.

He said: "It's taken us nearly three years of hard work and dedication, Halesowen will now become a business improvement district. Businesses across the region have voted in favour of the district and now the hard work begins in ensuring that, as an organisation, we offer the support and guidance necessary to help the town's businesses thrive."

"We have an exciting future ahead of us and I'm looking forward to sharing this new adventure with all of you."

It is the first town in the Dudley borough to have a business improvement district.

### Levy

The scheme involves businesses joining forces to create a single company with each member paying a levy to form a pot of cash to be used to benefit the area.

Members decide together on how the extra cash could be spent. It can include funding special events, improving security, promoting the town or making it more attractive.

Among the proposals put forward so far are CCTV cameras, free car parking and making empty shops more attractive. Work would also be done with West Midlands Police to create a 'late night safe haven'.

The district area covers around 400

### Report by Alex Ross

companies, including those in the Cornbow Shopping Centre.

Firms would pay less than £450 a year in to the BID, raising £600,000 to be spent across the district over the next five years.

The Halesowen BID comes after similar schemes launching in Wolverhampton, West Bromwich and Bilston.

Meanwhile, Halesowen BID bosses are supporting Halesowen in Bloom, an initiative encouraging individuals, community groups, schools, businesses and authorities to transform unloved and neglected parts of their neighbourhood.

The initiative, which is run by volunteers, has launched a Just Giving page where they are looking for donations to support volunteers by purchasing the equipment they need to water the floral decorations.

## Crafty knitters brought to book



Chair of Blackheath Community Together Tina Oliva and Linda Keenan outside Blackheath Library VISITORS to a Black Country library found themselves reading in a woollen wonderland thanks to a colourful and creative initiative by a residents' group.

Blackheath Community Together is behind the 'yarn storming' of the library's exterior and nearby

street signs and lampposts, a popular craze which involves wrapping and decorating landmarks with wool and knitted crafts.

The event is the first organised by the residents' group, which aims to promote education, creative arts and cohesion within the local community.

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2 CONTENTS

PETER RHODES	6
LETTERS	7
GARDENING	22
THE TICKET	25
BRAIN GYM	31
PROPERTY	33
MOTORING	38
SPORT	39 & 40
CONTACT US	

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# Row rages over Black Country flag

A HUGE row is raging over the Black Country flag after comments made by Wolverhampton MP Eleanor Smith referring to links with the slave trade.

Tens of thousands of readers leapt to the defence of the flag after our sister paper the Express & Star reported that Ms Smith had refused to be photographed with it because the image of chains had racist overtones.

More than 26,000 people voted in the newspaper's online poll with 95 per cent of them saying the red, white and black flag was not racist.

The newly-elected Wolverhampton

South West MP later denied saying the flag was 'racist' or that it should be 'banned' claiming her views were 'misrepresented'. She said un-named 'constituents' had raised concerns about the flag but admitted she also felt 'uneasy' about it.

She also claimed she had not posed for a flag picture with fellow MPs due to 'parliamentary commitments'.

The Express & Star is standing by comments attributed to Ms Smith that she was concerned about the flag's 'racist connotations' and it should be 'changed' for one that 'rep-

resents us all as a collective rainbow of people'. Editor Keith Harrison said he had received no complaint from Ms Smith about the story and he was confident of its accuracy.

Ms Smith said: "I talked about some concerns raised by my constituents about the flag - specifically the image of a chain, because of their historical use in the Slave Trade. I was uneasy about this image becoming the brand for the Black Country, on the grounds that it associates the Black Country with heritage industries, rather than modern ones. I did not say the flag

was racist. Neither did I say it should be banned. My views on this matter have been misrepresented."

Wolverhampton's left-wing Momentum group backed Ms Smith and said: "The reality that the chains made in the Black Country were used in the genocide that was the Transatlantic slave trade is not something we should hide behind talk of the glories of industrialisation and engineering."

"We call for the withdrawal of the flag and for a committee representative of the diversity of the Black Country today to be established."

# Party time! Festival reaches fever pitch

By Robert Cox

**'I'M proud to be a yam yam - it's bostin' ay it.'**

That was the mood across the Black Country over the weekend as thousands attended Black Country Festival celebrations.

The month-long festival's flagship fun day was held in the heart of Dudley on Saturday. The town centre around Stone Street Square was packed with families out to enjoy themselves.

Highlights included live wrestling, live music, a classic car display and a giant Black Country deckchair on which to be photographed. There was a comedy gala at Brierley Hill Civic Hall headlined by Geordie guest Ross Noble.

Broadcaster Billy Spakemon, who helps organise the festival, said: "The whole day gelled and brought the community together which is so important with everything going on at the moment in the world."

## Pride

"There is a resurgence in the pride in who we are and the way we speak."

Among those who paid a visit was Dudley North MP, Ian Austin. He said: "There are lots of place around which claim to have started the Industrial Revolution but the truth is that it started here in Dudley."

Elsewhere across the borough of Dudley, the Black Country Living Museum hosted a 1940s weekend.

There was a 'teenage market' at Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley, itself a symbol of the industrial revolution. Wordsley held a carnival at King George V Park while at Wolverhampton's West Park there was a 'fiesta' featuring monster trucks. There were events in Old Hill and Wednesbury.



Joanne Riley from Bilston and Willenhall Lions gets into the spirit of the event



Crowds at the Black Country Living Museum



Pat Dudley and daughter Karen with their flag

# Chamber aim to 'Get the Midlands moving'

A MAJOR new transport campaign to 'Get the Midlands moving' has been unveiled by the Black Country Chamber of Commerce.

Scores of business leaders attended a breakfast launch event at The Hawthorns, in West Bromwich, as the Chamber set out its campaign, which aims to raise the awareness and profile of transport and infrastructure issues in the Black Country on a national scale.

Five key areas that have been identified for the campaign that the Black Country Chamber wants to see action on: equal investment in infrastructure compared to other regions; better usage of the M6 Toll; greater investment in broadband infrastructure; support for HGV driver recruitment; and increased capacity for Birmingham Airport.

## Heart

Corin Crane, chamber chief executive, said: "The West Midlands is the heart of the UK, linking north and south, and the Black Country is essential to the success of the region."

"We produce vital products that are then distributed across the country and around the world, so a first-class transport and infrastructure base is key to the prosperity of the region."

"We have identified key areas where we believe we can help to influence change or raise the profile of the issue so that the Black Country can be competitive on an international scale. This is now the time for businesses to get involved and work with us to get the Midlands moving."

# Belarus visitors hosted by college

CHILDREN from Belarus have been visiting Halesowen College to take part in a range of fun activities and recuperate from high radiation levels due to the Chernobyl disaster.

The youngsters will be staying for a month to have a break from the unhealthy environment left by the nuclear power station disaster more than 30 years ago in the former Soviet Union.

Halesowen College students studying for a foundation degree in learning support arranged a packed programme involving manicures as well as art and craft activities.

Carole Barber, Lecturer at Halesowen College, said: "This is the tenth year we have had a group of children from Belarus in college. Our students really enjoy hosting a day and organising a range of fun activities for the children."

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# Free car park offer across borough is extended

A FREE parking scheme launched in a Black Country borough has been extended by council bosses as they look to bring in more shoppers to town centres.

The two-hour free parking trial ran through May and June.

It was put in place in council-owned car parks in Sedgley, Dudley, Brierley Hill and Halesowen.

It was originally set up to test whether more people would come into town centres and the Conservative-run council is currently studying the feedback to see if the scheme has been successful.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, Dudley Council's cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We have taken the decision to extend the parking trial while we look at the data on car park usage and footfall in the town centres to see what impact this has had on our shopping areas.

## Boost

"Some of our residents and traders have suggested that reduced parking charges could help to boost trade and we have listened to those requests," she added. "Anecdotally, people have been very supportive of the parking trial with many traders passing on positive reports from town centres."

For further information on the free parking scheme visit [www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/parking-roads](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/parking-roads)

# Gateway to stretch of canal by the M5

DOG walkers, cyclists and anglers will be able to walk along a canal towpath after a new gateway was installed under the M5 Oldbury viaduct.

The gate, funded by Highways England, can be used as an entry and exit point on to the nearby Birmingham Canal towpath and Spon Lane in West Bromwich.

A previous route was closed so Highways England stepped in to install the gate so people could get to the towpath again.

Highways England emergency planning officer Frank Bird said: "This means people will now be able to walk their dogs along the canal towpath. Highways England is also committed to try and improve cycle access to routes previously not available."

# Delays on road

DELAYS are expected on a route between Stourbridge and Halesowen until next month due to roadworks. A scheme on Stourbridge Road, Halesowen, means signals in place 9.30am to 3.30pm until August 7.

# Haka send off for hit-and-run victim



Darrin Sutton's haka to honour Ben Morse, right

A HIT-AND-RUN victim from Halesowen was given an unusual send off as one of his closest friends performed the haka, the famous Maori ceremonial war dance, at his funeral.

Darrin Sutton, originally from New Zealand, performed his own special tribute for Benjamin Morse.

The Maori war dance is closely associated with the New Zealand rugby team – the All Blacks – and hundreds who attended the funeral at St John's Church in Hale-

sowen looked on as Darrin broke out into the routine.

Darrin's fiancée Rachel Connor said: "Ben absolutely loved it. Everybody loved Darrin doing it. Darrin knew weeks before he was going to do it."

Those attending the funeral were asked to wear football shirts in memory of the Arsenal supporting football fan.

Mr Morse, aged 36, died after he was hit by a car at around 12.15am on May 1 while walking in Cherry Street in the town.

On Friday Nidal Alboraiki, aged 21, of Foxhunt Road, Halesowen, and Ahmed Alboraiki, 19, of the same address, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court and pleaded not guilty to a charge of murder.

They also denying a count of attempting to pervert the course of justice by disposing of a Vauxhall Corsa and a further allegation of driving dangerously. Ahmed Alboraiki also pleaded not guilty to a charge of perverting the course of justice. A trial date was set for October 16.

# Man threatened his ex with stun gun and knife

A MAN threatened his former partner with a stun gun and knife, telling her 'I'm going to Taser you'.

Ryan Campbell, aged 24, could not accept that their relationship had broken down when she returned to her parents, taking their children with her.

As a result of his threats and violence he has been jailed for more than a year.

Mr Angus Robertson, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court that Campbell's ex-partner described him as 'jealous and possessive'.

The defendant started driving up and down Priory Road, Dudley, near the family home and sent his ex abusive messages, which included a threat to kill her, a threat made on February 25.

The following day there was a video message from Campbell in which he said: 'I am coming for you – where are you?'

## Punched

A short time later he yelled abuse and hurled the contents of a soft drink bottle at her as she left a shop, continued Mr Robertson.

She ran towards her parents' home but he followed her by car and then cornered her.

She was punched by Campbell who then produced a stun gun, held it just two feet from her body and declared: 'I am going to Taser you'.

When she said she was going to call the police, he ran to his car, took a kitchen knife from the vehicle and threw it towards her.

Two days later Campbell tried to drag her into his car by her hair and spat at his victim, Mr Robertson told the court.

Campbell, now of Beecher Road, Halesowen, handed himself in to police on March 9.

The stun gun was found during a search of his home.

Miss Ellen Shaw, defending, said: "He needs to work on his temper."

Campbell admitted using a firearm with intent, harassment and possession of a bladed article.

He was jailed for 16 months.

## Artist's work steels the limelight



Artist Luke Perry unveiling his latest sculptures which are in Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge

ARTIST Luke Perry has unveiled his latest sculpture to enhance a Black Country landmark.

His eye-catching Edwardian-style designs made out of steel have been revealed at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge.

They decorate a series of information panels that will tell the

story of the historic park, which has been undergoing a £3 million makeover.

The metalworks will go by the Norton Road entrance and another by the war memorial.

They will enhance park visits by telling interesting stories about its past.

Mr Perry, who works out of his Cradley Heath studio, has taken inspiration from the park's famous entrance gates, which have also been spruced up as part of the improvement works, for the design of the panels.

He said: "These will last for hundreds of years."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Old bank fetches £160k at auction

A FORMER Cradley Heath bank sold for £50,000 more than its guide price at a property auction held at Villa Park.

The empty freehold HSBC bank chambers in High Street sold at £161,000.

Information issued about the building by auctioneers SDL Bigwood said that it was suitable for a continuation of its existing use, but could also be converted into offices or a restaurant, subject to obtaining the planning consents. The building has a banking court, till area, open-plan office, hall and interview office. On the first floor there are four rooms and a kitchen.

## Council consider election shake-up

A SHAKE-UP of the way council elections are held in Dudley is being proposed to save money.

Dudley Council has put forward plans to hold elections every four years, rather than three out of every four years, with a third of seats contested each time. Under the proposed changes, all 72 seats would be contested next year and again in 2022.

The authority, currently controlled by the Conservatives, said the change would bring greater stability and save £250,000 a year. A consultation has been launched at [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk)

## Flybe in launch of Hamburg service

FLYBE has celebrated the launch of an all-year-round service between Birmingham and Hamburg, the only direct service connecting the UK and Germany's 'second cities'.

Europe's largest independent regional airline, now offers up to four flights a week.

Flybe's other German routes from Birmingham for summer are those to Dusseldorf, Hannover, Berlin and Stuttgart.

Full details of schedules available at [www.flybe.com](http://www.flybe.com), with a choice of up to four flights a week.

## Pub opening after a revamp by new owners

A PUB is re-opening later this month following a refurbishment by the new owners.

The Queen's Head in Enville Street, Stourbridge, was bought by Pensnett-based Black Country Ales in April.

It will re-open at noon today (Thursday) offering a large and changing range of real ales alongside three permanent BCA beers. The skittle alley will be available to hire.

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# Elderly day centre is set to close its doors after 24 years

A POPULAR day centre which supports dozens of local elderly people will close this summer after more than 20 years.

Age Concern Stourbridge and Halesowen is set to close its day care centre based at the Mary Stevens Resource Centre in Oldswinford after losing vital funding earlier this year. Bosses say the decision will see seven members of staff facing redundancy.

However, existing clients who attend the facility, which has been going for 24 years, will be offered the chance to enjoy day care at the charity's Green Lane centre in Blackheath. Chief officer Dionne Legge explained: "The loss of funding has really effected us as we lost our grant at the beginning of the year which was a blow. This has been an incredibly sad and hard decision to make but we do have another day centre which is based in Green Lane, where clients will be able to phone Ring and Ride in order to get there."

"We have around 25 clients a day, some use it five days a week or just once a week."

The charity was hit badly by the loss of its annual authority grant, which took effect from April 1 this year.

## Pay

In previous years the charity had also been allowed to use the centre free of charge but Dudley Council announced earlier this year that groups and organisations using the building would have to pay.

Dionne added: "It has been tough all round for us and ultimately it will probably cost the council more in the long-run than us losing the cash grant. But we want to reiterate to our clients that they will not be left alone from this and we will continue to do our best for them. Over the past few years there are so many charity groups who have lost vital funding across the borough. It is such a shame."

The centre's final session is on September 1.

## Police look at interview

POLICE are investigating comments by a former IRA 'explosives' expert who claimed 'collective responsibility' for the Birmingham pub bombings that killed 21 people in 1974.

West Midlands Chief Constable Dave Thompson today revealed detectives had reviewed an interview by Michael Hayes given to the BBC where he admitted to defusing a third bomb. The interview caused outrage amongst the victims' families and the public as Mr Hayes appeared to speak with impunity.

Speaking to members of the West Midlands Strategic Policing and Crime Board, Mr Thompson revealed the force had requested the full footage from the BBC.

He said: "The pub bombing investigation, while not active, has never been closed. When new facts come to light, we will scrutinise them carefully."

## New principal at Halesowen College



Halesowen College new principal and chief executive David Williams

A COLLEGE in the heart of the Black Country has announced the appointment of its new principal.

David Williams has joined Halesowen College at the helm, also taking up the role of chief executive.

The appointment of Mr Williams comes after the retirement of former principal Keith Bate, who led the college for two decades before stepping down last year.

Mr Williams has more than 20 years of experience in the further education sector and he was most recently the deputy principal of Herefordshire and Ludlow College.

He said: "I am both honoured and excited to be given the opportunity to lead such a fantastic college."

## Quality

"Halesowen is quite rightly recognised locally, regionally and nationally as an excellent provider of high quality post-16 education that has the needs and interests of its learners firmly at its core."

"I am very impressed by all of the staff whose care, commitment and hard work ensures that the college's students receive the highest quality experience and achieve their very best."

"We are currently in the process of launching a number of new apprenticeship programmes."

## Road bridge to close for 'long overdue' work

A BRIDGE on a main road through the Dudley borough will close for almost two months for 'long overdue' repair works.

The single-lane bridge on High-bridge Road over the Dudley Canal in Netherton will close from this Monday and is due to reopen on September 8.

The road bridge is on a main route to Merry Hill shopping centre and the ward councillor has warned motorists that it will be 'difficult' for the next few months.

A diversion will be in place taking drivers via Pedmore Road and Cinder Bank toward Dudley's bypass, Duncan Edwards Way.

## Awful

Netherton ward councillor Elaine Taylor said: "It is a main route to Merry Hill and will be awful for people taking the route from Netherton."

"I, for one, use the road and it will be difficult for the next few months."

But Councillor Taylor stressed that the work was much needed and 'long overdue'.

"The walls are crumbling and I've reported it before to the council," said Councillor Taylo.

"The road will be closed for 50 metres either side of the bridge."

## Registration plates are stolen from car

REGISTRATION plates were stolen from a car parked at Clent.

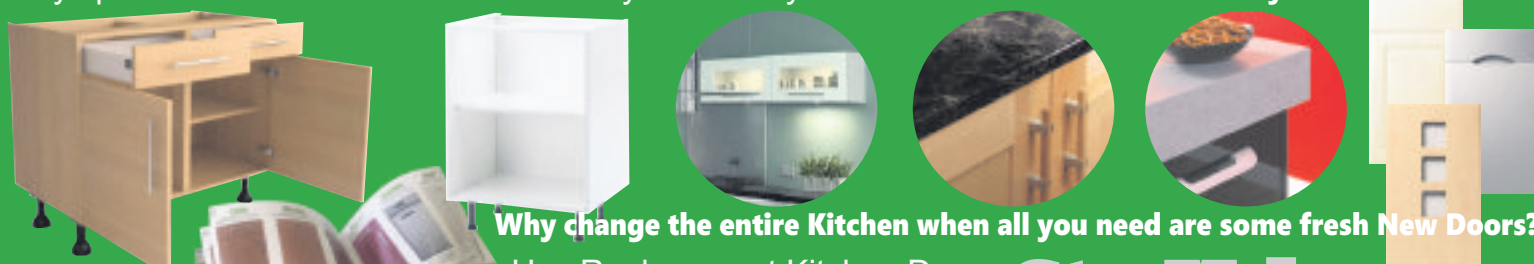
The vehicle was targeted between 5pm on Friday and 5pm on Saturday.

It was parked in Kings Meadow, when the front and rear plates were unscrewed. Nothing else was taken from the vehicle.

Anyone with any information should call West Mercia Police on 101.

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## Thousands of calls to police unanswered

NEARLY 400,000 calls to West Midlands Police's 101 number went unanswered in the last year.

It means more than a quarter of the 1.5 million 'non-emergency' inquiries saw either the caller hang up or be disconnected, as the force grapples with a staffing crisis and record demand.

In the last six months just 27 per cent of calls to 101, designed to deal with crimes such as car theft, criminal damage and drug dealing, were answered within 30 seconds. The national target is 90 per cent.

Similarly, more than 14,000 calls to 999 – around two per cent – were not picked up and 81 per cent of emergency calls were answered within 10 seconds, still significantly short of the 90 per cent target.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "The current levels of performance are not acceptable and need to improve rapidly."

### Higher

A report by Assistant Chief Constable Marcus Beale said: "The levels of demand the force is currently facing are far higher than anticipated for 2016-17 which has manifested itself in very high levels of 999 calls, 101 calls, incident logs and recording of volume crime."

"The volume of both calls for the service and volume of logs created in June both saw record levels, with close to 64,000 emergency calls received and more than 15,000 logs created that required an immediate response."

The force is also failing to meet its response targets for arriving at crime scenes quickly enough. This comes after it was revealed that crime is up eight per cent in the region.

The force is currently trying to merge its 999 and 101 call handling teams as part of plans to deal with budget cuts.

# Family have questions over care after woman's suicide

## Bowled over by effort for James



Among those on the team were, from left, Chris Beardsmore, Marc Couget, Beth Moseley and Charlotte Wilcox

A 24-hour bowlathon has raised more than £1,300 for a seven-year-old with cerebral palsy.

Staff at Tenpin Bowling in Dudley decided to take on the 24-hour challenge after hearing of the plight of seven-year-old James Downing from Rowley Regis.

The toddler suffers from cerebral palsy and his dream in life is to have life-changing treatment, which seven members of staff from the bowling alley were raising money towards.

The team started at 9am on Monday of last week and finished at 9am on the Tuesday. Eighteen-year-old Liam

Bolton, one of those taking part in the challenge, said: "It is probably one of the hardest things I have ever done. Until 2am it was fine but after that agony does not even describe it."

Nearly £48,000 has been raised, visit [www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/just4children/jamesdream](http://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/just4children/jamesdream)

**A FAMILY has complained about the psychiatric treatment given to a woman who took her own life in Cradley Heath by setting herself on fire.**

Sauqa Bi, aged 31, died on March 4 this year. At an inquest held at Jack Judge House, Oldbury, the court heard Miss Bi, who had a degree in economics and a masters, had left her job as a marketing manager in late 2015.

Since then, she had undergone a series of mental health episodes and was in and out of Hallam Street Hospital, West Bromwich. She was diagnosed with adjustment disorder – a condition where a significant life event triggers anxiety and depression – in 2016.

A questionnaire filled out by a psychologist prior to her final discharge from hospital on January 4, 2017, suggested she may have had traits of borderline personality disorder along with bipolar and schizotypal tendencies. She had overdosed on at least two occasions and often talked about killing herself.

Brother Mohammed Usman said: "I don't understand why having that questionnaire completed to show she had all these traits that more was not done to investigate her condition."

### Tragic

Dr Syed Ahmed, the consultant who treated Miss Bi, said: "From the multiple observations from myself, ward staff and nurses, Sauqa was bright and stable in hospital. There was no evidence of mental illness."

Giving a conclusion of suicide, Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique said: "It is absolutely tragic that this young woman took her own life. She seems to have been very gifted, bright and had her entire future ahead of her."

Representatives of the hospital are now to meet with the family to discuss the 10-page complaint they have submitted. Since her death, Since Miss Bi's death, Sandwell Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust has introduced a plan showing how staff are to improve record keeping, collaborative working and working with families.

## Classrooms extension bid

PLANS to extend a Halesowen school replacing a mobile classroom have been backed by by council officers.

A planning application has been submitted to extend Halesowen School, in Feldon Lane, Halesowen.

The report, submitted to Dudley Council's development control committee, outlines plans to build single storey extensions to the side of the school, which would create extra classrooms.

An existing mobile classroom would be demolished under the plans. An IT suite and storage and toilet facilities would also be developed under the plans.

The plans have been recommended for approval by the planning officers and will be considered by councillors.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Mess of messages with host of posters

IT'S great to see that the Wolverhampton Fiesta is back in rude health once more, attracting thousands of visitors to the city's West Park and evoking memories of the huge crowds during the sizzling hot summers during the 1970s.

How sad then, that an event which has the potential to do so much for the area, should be promoted in such an anti-social manner. Walking around Dudley last week, I noticed that practically every empty shop unit in Dudley – and yes, there are plenty of them – has been daubed with unsightly fly-posters promoting the Fiesta.

To be fair, it's not just the Fiesta, there are also posters for wrestling matches, funfairs and other events, but I would have expected better from the Wolverhampton Fiesta, a prestigious event to fly the flag for the area.

Of course, it may well be an external promoter which is responsible for this eyesore, without the knowledge of the event organisers. If so, I hope they will (a) think again about who they do business with in future, and (b) make sure the posters are removed immediately.

At a time when our town centres are struggling so hard for survival, the very last thing they need is scruffy, fading posters peeling from the windows of empty properties for months on end. And it is no good our councils spending hundreds of thousands of pounds on cosmetic improvements to our towns when they are being ruined by this hideous eyesore.

BEWARE, Big Brother is watching you. According to consumer watchdog group Which?, the growing number of internet connected devices around our homes makes us more vulnerable than ever of being spied on.

One of the devices said to be particularly vulnerable is the i-Kettle, which begs the question of why you would want your kettle connected up to the worldwide web in the first place. Apparently, the main benefit is that you can use your mobile phone to boil the kettle from the comfort of your own bed, although the flaw in the system is that you then have to go to the kitchen to actually make your cuppa. And of course drink it.

But that's nothing. There is now such as thing as a smart toilet, which means that even people's ablutions are now linked up to the information super-highway. Or too-much-information super-highway as I'm feeling inclined to call it.

The mind boggles at why the Russian baddies would want to hack into that.

## Irritating modern language quirks are just not tennis



Johanna Konta, who is known for her perfect English as well as her tennis exploits



One man on a boat – Rory McCann, who is Sandor "The Hound" Clegane in G.O.T.



So, Jeremy Vine is really fed-up of using a particular word at the start of a sentence

# Jo's lovely English is certainly not a racket

A READER asks after my recent item on the Cornish Republican Army (CRA), what initials would the CRA use if it had a Provisional wing? No prizes.

JOHANNA Konta plays a great game of tennis. But I'm just as impressed with her spoken English. In an age of lazy, grunting, consonant-dropping Estuary English where the phrase "Do you know what I mean?" is usually truncated to "jinamin?" Konta is a beacon of clarity. Born in Australia to Hungarian parents, she proper speaks the Queen's English

AS the seventh season of Game of Thrones kicks off on Sky, I am reminded of a sunny day in Scotland a few months ago. I was waiting for a ferry to a remote island when I was joined at the slipway by the most handsome man I have ever beheld. He was tall, dark and designer-stubbled and he spoke with a gentle Scottish accent as he offered me a lift across. The crossing took about 20 minutes and as his battered old boat pop-popped along, we got chatting. He said, in a smiling, self-mocking way, that he was an actor "from time to time." Anyway, long story short, he turned out to be Rory McCann, better known to Thrones fans as the tormented and hate-driven Sandor "The Hound" Clegane. On the screen, a mass killer with his axe dripping with entrails. In real life, a nice bloke.

SO farewell, at least for the time being, to Doctor Who and those weekly encounters with time-bending travel. Strange to report, but real life has its share of wormholes and time-slips.

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



Take the curious fact that we are preparing for Mrs Rhodes's 37th birthday at the weekend, even though I could swear we met 45 years ago.

A READER admits she's alarmed at my recent item on "toilet plumes" which, according to new research, can spread microscopic faecal particles up to 15 feet, unless you close the lid before flushing. Her problem is that her backyard WC has no lid, and what can I advise? A 16-foot pole and some running shoes.

THE Lake District has been awarded Unesco World Heritage status. So that's more tourists, more litter, more cars crawling through Ambleside and along Windermere. Just what it needs, eh? I know and love a particularly beautiful part of England. It rarely appears in the guide books and it would never dream, I hope, of applying for World Heritage status. Years ago, a friend who is a countryside writer was invited to write about his favourite places in England. He produced the book but kept his really favourite places out of it. There is a lot to be said for keeping secrets secret.

MORE on the theme of holiday-envy. A reader told one of her friends she'd be taking a month-long break in the United States. The response

was : "Well, you're lucky. I only had a week in Paignton." So good holidays are a matter of luck, are they? My reader takes the view that the harder she works, the luckier she gets.

IN any case, you don't have to cross the Atlantic to have a great holiday. I have a friend who has travelled the world and over the past few months has visited Japan and South America. She gets ridiculously excited about her annual week at Corfe Castle.

COLOUR TV was launched 50 years ago this month. One reader is reminded of his first encounter with the technology. He was at university and he recalls the "great excitement" as he and his fellow students prepared to watch international rugby in colour for the first time. What dazzling new dimension would colour bring to the game? Not much. The competing sides were England (all white) v New Zealand (all black).

JEREMY Vine says anyone starting a sentence with the word 'So . . .' should be given a fixed penalty notice. He has a point. The 'So . . .' epidemic infests every media interview. I have no idea where it came from or what the 'So . . .' brigade thinks it adds to the conversation. But I suspect that every generation has its opening line which in time makes way for something new. Back in the 1960s, one particular opener became so commonplace , and so damn irritating, that Monty Python gave us John Cleese as a spokesman for the British Well Basically Club. And what did Cleese tell us? Well, basically . . .

TALKING POINT



# Stress in store will put you off your trolley

FOR many years the big high street names have been battling for our custom.

It's been buy one, get one free on this; take advantage of three for two on that (while stocks last, of course); and don't forget the larger size works out cheaper.

No wonder that when faced with the mind-boggling sums we're expected to work out while blocking the supermarket aisles, many shoppers have tried to weigh up whether it is better to give up, go home and give in to internet shopping.

And no wonder there is so much tension these days, what with getting to the shops, finding what you want, working out which is the fastest-moving checkout queue, and then . . . and then preparing for the inquisition.

You know how it goes. "Hi, all right?" is usually the checkout operative's opening move. Before you've had chance to reply, you're hit with "Do you need a bag?", "Have you got a loyalty/bonus card?", "Did you find what you were looking for today?", and finally "Can I interest you in our special offer of a bottle of water/bar of chocolate?" Fumbling around for something, anything, with which to pay, it's that second question, about the loyalty/bonus card that plays on the mind.

Is it really worth searching for said card in your purse, wallet, pocket or bag when you have so many of the damn things and that queue is stretching halfway across the shop? Of course it is, you tell yourself.

So, is there an answer to all this hassle? Maybe, but it will take a fair amount of work by the retailers. Like so many ideas, it came to me while waiting in a checkout queue – thumbprint recognition.

I've lost count of the number of cards I've had stamped or scanned in supermarkets, pubs and coffee shops, often with barely visible ink, or so smudged that the next stamp threatens to merge into one great blob.

The technology is already there to enable smartphones to be unlocked by a unique user, and an increasing number of people are willing to go contactless at the point of payment. Imagine being able to clock up bonus points or take a step towards a free cup of coffee in such a quick and efficient way.

Yes there would be the usual stumbling blocks of data protection, identity theft and the cost of installing the equipment but the digital age is advancing at such a ferocious pace that I'm sure everything could be in place for Christmas, and let's face it, what better incentive is there for the shops to get even more of us spending more, at their busiest time of the year.

STEVE PARLETT

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# Time to listen to the anger over austerity

SO there we have it! The Government listen, they applaud the work, dedication, bravery of the emergency services, they say they are listening but they are not hearing. I suggest they remove the builder's ear defenders and then they will hear the anger and discord this Government is causing.

What MP works seven days a week on a 24-hour system? What MP attends the aftermath of tragic incidents and deals with the terrible sights all our services have to deal with? What MP is spat upon, assaulted, abused? What MP goes to an incident on their own not knowing what they will be met with? What MP sees and deals with unbelievable sights at our A&Es or the scenes of horrendous fires? However,

all MPs did get 10 per cent wage increases, housing benefits, expenses of all sorts.

So now we all know just how much this Government appreciates all our public sector workers but I would like to know where the unions are in all this furore, aren't they there to protect and fight for workers' rights?

Oh sorry, I forgot successive governments have placed legal strangleholds upon them making them powerless.

So Mr and Mrs MP don't worry, you who receive £70,000, but fear not, the working class will keep you living in the style you have become accustomed to. I just ask that you supply a flat cloth cap to all, so that when you drive or walk by we can all doff the cap and bow

our heads and perhaps you may throw us some scraps.

I often wonder what has happened to the British spirit? When Maggie introduced the dreaded poll tax this nation was in uproar and it forced the then Government to abolish it, but now we have had austerity for over seven years, introduction of food banks because people cannot afford to buy food, cuts to all services, cuts to all types of benefits, the young and old targeted in one way or another, and yet we keep on being trampled upon and the Government just keep stamping harder and harder. We are treated and spoken to like fools.

**PETE LOWE**  
Briefley Hill

## Thatcher is not worthy of statue

I AGREE with the sentiment that a proposed statue for Margaret Thatcher should be cancelled because of the possibility of vandalism. Margaret Thatcher was a divisive politician who, through her policies, caused tremendous hardship for millions.

This period of our history was dominated by a selfish unfeeling uncaring elite who had no thought for the less well off in society. Many communities in our country were torn apart through her policies, millions of lives blighted, dreams and hopes destroyed. To me and many others Mrs Thatcher was the unacceptable face of capitalism.

So it is my belief we should not put up a statue to this woman, we should only honour people who deserve to be honoured.

**JOHN GREEN**  
Sedgley

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

### EMAIL

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

**Code of Practice:** Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at [www.ipsa.co.uk](http://www.ipsa.co.uk). If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

## Let the trees do their work to clean our air

THERE is a lot of publicity about the harmful emissions from diesel vehicles that the 'powers that be' are crying about - particularly in towns/cities. But what about the thousands of motorists in rural areas? These people put out the same pollutants, but surely these are absorbed by the benefits of trees breathing in toxins, and breathing out pure oxygen. Many years ago, my father used to work with Jack Holden, who was a long distance runner. Jack used to run in the Millennium Woods so that he could breathe oxygen. Trees were planted in cities so they could do their work. Before the do-gooders opened their mouths.

**PETER COLE**  
Kingswinford

## A 'goosey' Brexit is mockery

I'VE listened to the political elite, watched the business tycoons, read the editorials, and now we see the negotiations, and all I see is a goosey Brexit, full of compromise and stitch-ups.

What we voted for seems to have become lost in a mist of political spin. We voted for a stop on uncontrolled immigration, we told the Government we want control of our borders, we wanted foreign criminals deported, and our sovereignty back, and the right to free trade agreements.

Yet it seems one by one what we voted for is being eroded into a mushy mish-mash of patched-up compromises, and a Brexit that will betray the trust of the British people and bring mockery to the whole democratic process.

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## Two awards add to college success story

DUDLEY College is celebrating adding even more awards to its prize cabinet having scooped two top accolades at this year's Education Awards.

At a glittering ceremony held at Edgbaston Stadium, principal Lowell Williams was named Educational Leader of the Year.

The college's Peter Jones Academy was recognised for continuing to grow the number of students engaged in successful enterprise activities by being crowned Entrepreneurial Education Establishment of the Year. The Education Awards is sponsored by Birmingham City University.

At the event, hosted by comedian Patrick Monahan, 16 awards were made to organisations from across the educational spectrum including schools, colleges and universities.

Mr Williams said: "It's been a fantastic week at the college for staff and students from our Peter Jones Enterprise Academy, as one of our students Jack Brooks was named National Entrepreneur of the Year by Peter Jones himself. To pick up the award for Entrepreneurial Educational Establishment of the Year too, must mean we are doing something profoundly right. I'm personally delighted to be given an award which I'm accepting as recognition of the outstanding teaching and learning that Dudley College delivers."

## Apprentice fair held at art and design centre

YOUNG people could have the chance to get on the path to work at an apprenticeship fair organised by Dudley South MP Mike Wood are being held at Stourbridge College's Art and Design Centre in Brierley Hill today (Thursday) from 2 to 5pm.

The fair will take place at the centre on Venture Way. For more information call (01384) 913123.

# Asylum seeker convicted of £70,000 benefits fraud

## 007 auction has a licence to thrill



Just some of the James Bond movie memorabilia treasures which will be going to auction in Dudley

IT'S a collection made in 007 heaven as a huge collection of James Bond movie memorabilia stretching back over 50 years is set to go under the hammer in Dudley.

The huge private collection of film memorabilia has a bias towards James Bond films, as well as an extensive collection of 007 Collectable Toys.

Named the Yeovil Collection it features everything you need to be like James Bond including spy watches,

toy guns and fake passports – and is expected to fetch between £50,000 and £80,000.

Auctioneer Chris Aston says it has been a tough decision for the vendor to finally sell up after dedicating more than 30 years to amassing this treasure hoard.

They are working on cataloguing, photographing and valuing the thousands of items and they will be ready to go under the hammer in September.

Items up for grabs include a rare toy harpoon gun in original packaging. It is expected to fetch between £800 and £1,200. A Bond Scalextric set has an estimate of £1,000 to £1,500.

Mr Aston said: "It is such a large collection comprising of items worth anything from around £10 to into the thousands."

The film memorabilia will be sold at Aston's Auction House on September 19 and the toys on September 21.

A GAMBIAN woman who came to this country under a false name on a six-month visitor visa more than 20 years ago has illegally pocketed more than £70,000 of benefits.

A judge heard that Ramou Jarusey started calling herself Ndoi Ndoi and arrived in the UK in 1996 without permission to work or to claim state benefits, during what was supposed to be a short stay.

Nine years later she started claiming working tax credit using her alias. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that she also collected child tax credit. The Dudley resident reportedly has a grown up child living in Gambia and has given birth to two children since her arrival in England.

Jarusey created a web of deceit using different names and four dates of birth to illegally accrue £70,696 in benefits between October 2005 to April 2015.

Miss Caroline Harris, prosecuting, said: "She has never been entitled to claim benefits."

## Deportation

Tax credit paid to the defendant under the name of Ndoi was halted on April 5, 2015, after officials received information that the person of that name had moved to Denmark. Three months later she applied for the same benefits using her real name.

Jarusey, 54, had an asylum application rejected but was granted conditional leave to remain and work in this country until November, when she faces possible deportation. She was arrested in February and initially denied the fraud but on May 2 told investigators: "I want to confess."

Mr Henry Skudra, defending, said: "Given the complexity of the asylum proceedings she is not entirely sure of the chronology."

Jarusey, of The Farthings, pleaded guilty to fraudulently obtaining tax credit. She received a 16-month prison sentence suspended for two years with three month curfew. She was also ordered to pay a nominal £1,000 compensation.

## MP honours pay pledge

AN MP has donated £500 to a group which helps homeless young people. Dudley North MP Ian Austin handed the cheque to the YMCA Black Country Group.

He donated the cash from the good causes fund he set up with the 10 per cent pay rise handed to MPs in 2015.

The donation will support the YMCA's Open Doors Project which finds homes for homeless young people with local families.

The YMCA provides a range of youth and community services including accommodation, health advice, training and education for young people in the Black Country.

Mr Austin said: "I promised at the election that when times are tough for so many local families I would use the MPs' pay rise to help. The YMCA does brilliant work in Dudley and the wider Black Country."

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## Clever pupils scoop maths challenge



Pupils from Quarry Bank Primary School won Dudley Intermaths Championship after beating competition from 40 schools

IT was an equation that equalled success as children won a prestigious competition testing their maths skills.

The Quarry Bank youngsters triumphed in the Dudley Intermaths Championship after beating competition from 40 schools and 250 children. They had to battle it out in a series of challenges, which tested their understanding of shapes, time and skills.

The competition, in its third year, took place last month with a special assembly and trophy presentation held for the winners this month.

School improvement advisors Helen Owens and Darren Walter organised the competition. Helen said: "We're so proud of the school, the staff, children and parents that took part and supported the competition."

## Thief jailed after snatching cash

**A THIEF has been locked up for more than two years after two raids that led to shaken shop assistants quitting their jobs.**

Mark Taylor struck at the One Stop convenience store in Throne Road, Rowley Regis, on May 1.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that the 53-year-old bought a chocolate bar and then grabbed £300 from the till while waiting for his change.

Miss Joanne Barker, prosecuting, said that the next day he did the same at the chain's branch in Dudley Port, this time escaping with £150 after a short struggle during which the cashier managed to jam his hand in the till. Taylor was recognised on CCTV footage of the incidents and arrested on May 3. He said the stolen money had been spent on cocaine but insisted he was not a drug addict.

The two shop assistants serving him when the money was stolen were both so shaken by the experience that they

handed in their notice, added Miss Barker.

Mr Christopher O'Gorman, defending, said Taylor, of Grange Road, West Bromwich, had 'turned his back on everything that had been good in his life' after losing contact with his children following the collapse of his second marriage.

The defendant, who had 21 previous convictions involving 40 separate offences, admitted the two thefts and was sent to prison for two years four months.

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Rocking down the years – Graham Gouldman, centre, performing with 10cc at the Robin 2



Soul legend Ben E King



Owner and founder Mike Hamblett inside the Robin 2 venue in Bilston



Female trio The Three Degrees were a big hit when they appeared on stage



Carol Decker of T'Pau



Home venue – Dave Hill, second left, with the current Slade line-up regular performers

# Robin is still rockin' – 25 years on

## IT all started as just a pipe dream in his parents' front room back in Quarry Bank

Now, a quarter of a century later Mike Hamblett's The Robin 2 is at the heart of the live music scene in the Black Country and celebrating its 25th anniversary year.

Since forming in 1992 the venue – originally called The Robin R'n'B Club in Quarry Bank before moving to Bilston and changing its name to The Robin 2 – has welcomed a huge array of stars. They have included the

late, great Ben E King, to Blues Brothers icon Steve Cropper, The Animals, Glenn Hughes, Billy Ocean, Peter Green and 10CC, to name but a few. At both of its grand openings The Robin has been officially opened by Slade's Noddy Holder. He was also joined by Roy Wood for the opening of the Robin 2 in 1998.

Not only has the club played host to top acts, but it has also paved the way for budding acts to get started. At the tender age of 13, Black Country blues sensation Joanne Shaw Taylor played her first-ever show at The Robin and has gone on to great things.

Mr Hamblett, who had formerly worked at GKN Sankey Vending in Bilston, said: "I was 37 years old when I opened The Robin R'n'B Club as I called it, at The Robin Hood Inn, in Pedmore Road, Quarry Bank, on April 9, 1992.

"I wanted to forge a business for myself in the music 'biz' – I figured there must be more to life than designing vending machines. I started the business from my mom and dad's front room in Victoria Road, Quarry Bank, just up the road from The Robin Hood, later to become my first venue.

"I started an independent record label by

day and did PA hire for bands at night. The record label soon ate up all the money I had saved while at GKN, so it was off to the bank for a loan and, after a year or two, I managed to make a living – just."

In 1992, a school friend of Mike's took on the lease for The Robin Hood pub from former leaseholder Ray Hingley, who had made the venue famous after Chris Tarrant's OTT was filmed in the bar.

The venue had also become well-known locally for The Black Country Night Out at The Citizens Theatre, based at the back of the pub.

"Even though it was local I had never been in The Robin Hood, so I went down to see how John was doing," added Mike, now aged 63.

"He showed me around and took me into The Citizens Theatre which, by now, was hardly used and I said 'this would make a great venue'. I had a spare PA system available so, after much deliberation, I started bringing bands in to help John bring in some trade. And so, The Robin was born."

The second act to play were Soul Survivors, who returned as part of the anniversary celebrations.

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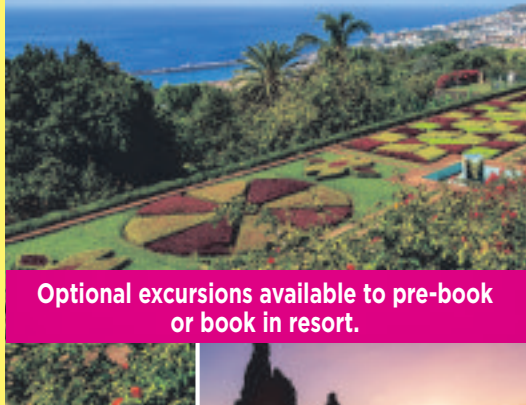
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# Festive design earns the royal stamp of approval

A FESTIVE scene by a schoolgirl from Dudley will be on millions of Christmas card envelopes after winning a competition to design one of the UK's official stamps.

Ten-year-old Arwen Wilson is one of two winners in a national Christmas stamp contest with her design picked by Prince Charles and approved by The Queen.

St Chad's Catholic Primary pupil Arwen's design - Snow Family - will feature on the 2nd class Christmas stamp. The 1st class stamp will use a design by Ted Lewis-Clark from Somerset. Both Arwen and Ted will be presented with a framed set of their stamp designs by Prince Charles.

A special postmark will also feature on mail delivered to addresses nationwide.

## Pudding

Each child will have their name on the postmark for a week in November. Arwen's postmarks will feature on mail delivered from November 14.

Geoff Braden, of Royal Mail, one of the regional judges, said of Arwen's design: "I particularly like the Christmas pudding and the mischievous snowman with the snowballs."

Royal Mail chief executive officer Moya Greene said: "We received a phenomenal response to our Christmas stamp design competition this year with over 200,000 entries from children across the UK."

It is only the fourth time in the Royal Mail's 500-year history that children have designed Christmas stamps. The winners both won £1,000 in vouchers and £1,000 for their schools. Other Christmas stamps for different postal rates, and a religious-themed issue, will be available from November 7.



Arwen Wilson is making her mark on Christmas with her snowman family design



Arwen's design - Snow Family - will be on the nation's second class stamps

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Tasmin Little, who received an honorary degree from Birmingham City University

ONE of the world's top violinist has been awarded an honorary degree from Birmingham City University.

Tasmin Little was handed her Honorary Doctorate by chancellor Sir Lenny Henry on Monday in a ceremony at Symphony Hall – alongside students graduating from the faculty of arts, design and media, which includes Birmingham Conservatoire. Tasmin has performed at leading venues across the globe, including Carnegie Hall in New York, Musikverein in Vienna, and the Symphony Hall.

In 2012, London-born Tasmin was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Birthday Honours List for services to music. She said: "I'm thrilled and honoured to receive an Honorary Doctorate degree from Birmingham City University."

"I have so many wonderful associations with the city of Birmingham and the Midlands."

"I am looking forward to this exciting day hugely."

# 'Common sense' is urged over holidays

**LET'S be sensible over school holiday fines – that's the message of Dudley children's services boss as fines are set to begin again.**

Councillor Anne Millward said there should be a rethink on the policy of fining parents who take pupils out of school on holidays during term time.

Councillor Millward, also a school governor, said there needed to be a 'sensible solution'.

Dudley Council will re-instate the fining system from the start of the next school year after it was halted following a high-profile legal challenge from a father on the Isle of Wight.

## Headteachers

The authority said the move was 'overwhelmingly supported' by headteachers.

It means parents who take their children out of school during term time will be fined £60. If that is not paid within 21 days, it will rise to £120.

The move has proven unpopular with many parents feeling it is unfair to be hit in the pocket for taking their child out of school, especially as holidays are more

By Richard Guttridge

expensive outside term time.

Councillor Millward, cabinet member for children's services, said she sympathised with parents who only wanted to take their children out for a few days, and 'common sense should prevail'. She believes it should be for headteachers to decide each case.

"Keeping children in school is absolutely paramount for their education but I also recognise as a governor of a school where there are high levels of deprivation there are parents who take their children on small holidays where they collect vouchers," she said. "These are out of season and sometimes are the only holiday these children get."

# Don't get court out to miss tennis fun

FOLLOWING Wimbledon fever there are many opportunities to play tennis in Sandwell.

People can turn up and play at one of the many free-to-use tennis courts in Redhouse Park, West Bromwich, Brunswick Park and Hill Top Park, Wednesbury, Britannia Park and Haden Hill Park, Rowley, Victoria Park, Tipton, and Victoria Park, Smethwick.

People who don't have a racquet but still want to play can do so free at sessions delivered by the council's partners Sandwell Leisure Trust (SLT) at Brunswick Park every Sunday between 10am and 12pm.

To join in this session book online [www.brunswick-parktennis.co.uk](http://www.brunswick-parktennis.co.uk) or just turn up at Redhouse Park on a Wednesday for free family tennis between 6pm and 7:30pm. Enthusiasts – children or adults – who want to improve their game can do so for just £2.50 a week at SLT coached sessions at Brunswick Park and Redhouse Park, book a session at [www.tennisinsandwell.net](http://www.tennisinsandwell.net).

Sandwell is also host to the Community Indoor Tennis Centre for the Black Country at Tipton Sports Academy. For the next seven weeks you can play on the same courts as the professionals for the reduced rate of £5 per hour from 9am till 12pm during the week and £10 per hour (or £7.50 for families with a junior) during the weekend.



Tennis coaches Andy Griffin, left, and Craig Unit, right with Councillor Richard Marshall

# Direct flights from Brum to USA are being axed

UNITED Airlines is pulling out of Birmingham in a move that will sever the city's last direct air route to the USA.

United says the service between Birmingham and New York's Newark airport will be discontinued from October 5.

The airline has run the route for more than 20 years, carrying more than two million passengers, but is axing the route because of its 'poor financial performance'.

It is a major blow for Birmingham Airport and its growth plans, coming after rival US carrier American Airlines pulled its direct flights to New York JFK in January after operating

it for just eight months. It means travellers from the West Midlands now face having to travel to Manchester or Heathrow for direct flights.

Birmingham Airport said it was 'disappointed' at the decision.

A spokesperson added: "We expect to be making an announcement shortly regarding another airline serving North America non-stop from Birmingham.k at a time when our companies are going to want to export more to the US."

In a statement, United Airlines said: "We have regretfully taken this decision because of the route's poor financial performance. We will contact

customers with bookings for flights beyond those dates to provide refunds.

"We appreciate the service of our Birmingham-based employees and our human resources team is organising individual consultations with each of the three employees to discuss severance payments and opportunities for redeployment, assist with job searches and answer any questions."

The airport has just hailed another month of record breaking growth, after more than 1.3 million passengers in June. Growth has come from short haul flights with Sofia, Lisbon, Rennes, Nantes, Ibiza and Burgas the most popular destinations.

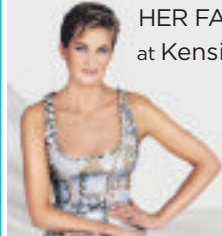
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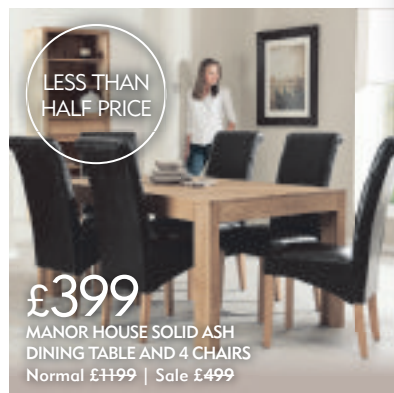
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# 14 More likely to die if admitted at weekends

DEATH rates were higher for patients going to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital at weekends last year.

Figures showed patients were more likely to die if they were admitted on Saturdays and Sundays rather than on weekdays during nine months of 2016.

Hospital bosses explained the findings were due to more 'acutely unwell' patients being admitted at weekends.

The hospital standardised mortality ratio (HSMR), which tracks death rates, gives a score of 100 for the NHS average. At Russells Hall it reached as high as 128.9 at weekends in September 2016, compared to a weekday score for the same month of 92.3. In July 2016 the weekend score was 125.8 against a weekday rate of 94.6.

There were only three months during the year when the weekend mortality score was lower.

## Better

Diane Wake, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Trust, which runs Russells Hall, said the HSMR 'did not reflect actual numbers of deaths' and was 'not designed or intended to identify this'.

She said: "The trust's HSMR is well within the expected range and our SHMI (summary hospital-level mortality indicator) is, in fact, better than average."

"We recognise that HSMR is well known nationally for appearing to show a difference between weekday and weekend admissions. There are a number of possible explanations for why this is the case, including the larger proportion of acutely unwell patients admitted at weekends, the methodology of how the data is calculated and the difference in provision of primary care services during the weekend."

# Water way to raise vital charity funds



Nick Wright and Jason Nicholls who walked the length of the River Severn

**A BUSINESSMAN from Stourbridge and his friend have raised more than £5,000 by walking the length of the River Severn then kayaking back up it in memory of a baby who died from meningitis.**

Fleur-Rose Allen, from Highley, near Bridgnorth, died in April last year after

By Jordan Reynolds

she was diagnosed with Streptococcal pneumonia septicaemia.

Her mother, Lizzie Allen, has held a number of fundraising events in memory of the 15-month-old.

A friend of the family, father-of-three Nick Wright and Jason Nicholls walked the length of



Kayaking back to the start of the challenge

the River Severn – a total of 233 miles – and kayaked back up it to raise funds.

This latest fundraising effort has boosted the money raised to more than £20,000 for Meningitis Now.

Mr Wright, company director of Hartwright Commercial Stourbridge, said: "Our current Justgiving page balance sits at £5,300."

"It was tough to be honest, the walk took us five days of solid walking and the paddle back



The sight of iconic landmarks helped them on their way



The two, who hope to raise more than £500 for Meningitis Now

took us three days which was 11 hours a day constant paddling covering over 40 miles a day.

"We had plenty of blisters and injuries along the way. The river in the upper reaches in Abermule, which is 12 miles outside Welshpool, was difficult as it was so low in areas that we had to physically carry the canoe and our back packs which were weighing 25kg each."

For more information, or to donate, visit justgiving.com/fundraising/Nick-Jason

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## Housing on way in 'garden city' move

HUNDREDS of homes will be built and improvements made to road and rail infrastructure as part of multi-million pound plan to create a 'garden city' in the Black Country.

Canalside developments and transformation of former industrial sites form ambitious proposals for a huge regeneration of the Dudley Port area.

Dudley Port train station would receive significant investment to become a transport interchange, combining train, metro and rail services. Bus lanes and cycle lanes would also be added to main roads under the plans.

A blueprint for the future of the area has been revealed by Sandwell Council, which includes sites for more than 600 homes, including a canalside residential development at Lower City Road.

Transport chiefs are also keen to bring in bus lanes along the A461 Dudley Port and cycle lanes on both Dudley Port and Birmingham Road. Canal towpaths would also be improved.

The area was earmarked last year for possible garden city development in a bid to meet the huge demand for housing in the Black Country. The report can be viewed and commented on at [www.sandwell.gov.uk/dudleyport](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/dudleyport)

## Jasper postpones tour due to heart op



**Jasper Carrott due to have heart bypass surgery next month**

COMEDIAN Jasper Carrott has postponed his tour after revealing that he needs major surgery.

The Birmingham star has halted his tour because he requires a heart bypass operation. The 72-year-old will need three months off to recover from the op.

In a statement, it was reported the comedian said: "Sadly, I have been told very recently that I need a heart bypass operation. Whilst it's not desperate it is obviously something which I need to get done as soon as possible."

"All being well, the operation will take place in August and there will then follow a three-month recovery period after which I anticipate being able to return to work as normal. Unfortunately this effects a number of shows which unavoidably must be postponed until at least early spring next year."

"My sincere apologies to all the theatre-goers who have bought tickets to my shows but I know you will understand that my health comes before anything."

The Stand Up and Rock tour has seen all the dates from October onwards postponed.

## Host of activities as 'play week' returns

CHILDREN can enjoy games, sports and craft activities this summer as a popular 'play week' returns.

Returning for a ninth year, the event organised by Dudley Council will begin on July 31 and run through to August 4. During the week there will be group games, sports, den building, crafts, assault courses, skittles, tug of war, sumo wrestling, glass painting and more.

Most of the activities are free. This year's events will be at Huntingtree Park, Halesowen on July 31, Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley on August 1, Mary Steven's Park, Stourbridge on August 2, Priory Park on August 3, The Dell Stadium and Fens Pool on August 4.

Activities take place daily from noon to 4pm. Children attending must be registered on arrival at the registration tent and must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

For more information visit [sycamoreadventure.co.uk](http://sycamoreadventure.co.uk) or call (01384) 813755.

# Hopes for Cradley Heathens' new home are back on track

**CRADLEY Heathens speedway club has had a major breakthrough in its 22-year search for a new home,**

Plans are being submitted for a track in Oldbury.

The application is for a multi-purpose sporting venue, including a speedway track, at the Queens Field on the Lion Farm Estate. It has been

handed to Sandwell Council by the supporters trust.

Heathens are one of the biggest names in the sport but have been homeless since their Dudley Wood track was sold for housing in 1995. The search for a new base has been fruitless with the club instead sharing tracks with various Midlands rivals.

After reforming in 2010, initially as Dudley Heathens, the club has regu-

larly-held talks with Dudley Council over a new home without success. Bosses have now opted for a site in Sandwell.

Club bosses congratulated the trust on submitting the application and urged all supporters to get behind the plans. The statement read: "We would urge all supporters of the club to fully embrace this scheme."

● **Boss backs plan** – page 40

## Chain Ale is special celebration brew

A BREWERY in Dudley has created a new ale to mark Black Country Day and it is on sale across the region.

Black Country Ales' 4.2 per cent strength Chain Ale, brewed at its Lower Gornal brewery at the Old Bull's Head, is now on sale at all of the Black Country Ales pubs across the region.

During the Black Country Festival, the BCA pubs, which include The Swan and The Whitley in Halesowen and The Cross Inn, Kinver, The Queen's Head in Wordsley and The Court House in Dudley, will also be offering a range of ales from other local breweries. These include AJ Ales, Walsall; Fixed Wheel, Blackheath; Green Duck, Stourbridge; and Holden's from Dudley.

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# Dealers will not haggle like TV show presenters!

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



WE see an enormous amount of people every week bringing items to the sale-room for valuation in the hope of selling them for the best price.

Which is obviously what we do – but it seems some of our potential sellers are still not switching on to the fact that what happens on antiques TV shows is not necessarily what happens in real life!

Prices of items in the auction depend on all kinds of different factors, from age and condition to quality and availability (if a piece is rare then it will be much more collectable).

Not everything that glitters proves to be gold, silver and gold items are selling well at present but some people make the mistake of thinking that plated pieces are just as saleable.

Damage does affect value, even if it is possible to pay for professional repair – someone brought in a stunning Royal Doulton vase for valuation recently and sadly it was chipped and cracked in numerous places meaning it was worth very little.



A little damage that can't easily be seen – or which could be successfully repaired – may not affect the value too dramatically but it is important to remember that most collectors are looking for perfect items.

Reproduction pieces may look perfect and sell well AS reproduction pieces but it is easy to be fooled into thinking you have the genuine article.

So if you do have items you would like to sell in the saleroom it's a good idea to check them over first for signs of damage or wear and maybe do

a little research on the internet to get some information and compare your pieces with pictures of the Real McCoy.

And please don't think we antiques dealers can haggle endlessly like the TV show presenters over prices and end up buying or selling at unrealistic, rock-bottom prices – we can't!

- Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.
- The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables takes place at the Mill Street saleroom in Low Town, Bridgnorth, on Tuesday, August 1.

Viewing will be during the weekend and on Monday and also from 10am on auction day. New sale bidders are advised to attend the saleroom early on auction day to register and be allocated a bidding number.

# Keeping up to date with popular fashion bloggers



Try @lookitsjasmine for a fashion blog

I HAVE been spending some time reading some of the most popular blogs. They are a fascinating source of information but clearly take the writer a considerable amount of time to put together a daily upload.

The top bloggers review items for the bigger brands and help to promote products to an ever-enthusiastic audience worldwide.

A new men's garment brand, soon to launch, called 58-59 (www.5859.co.uk) is linking its marketing to music and the icons associated with style. Their unique selling point is that each piece will be a limited edition collector's item. The promotion is targeted before even one garment has been produced. The audience will be ready to spend their money on day one. The company is posting some of the most stylish photos of Bowie, Weller, Gallagher and other mainstream musicians, those that have created trends followed by the masses.

Musicians are today's style gurus, often launching their own brand of clothing. Liam Gallagher's 'Pretty Green', Madonna's 'Material Girl', Gwen Stefani 'L.A.M.B.', Victoria Beckham and many more using social media

## STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



as a promotional platform to bring their product to a wider audience.

Another recent blogger is @lookitsjasmine, an ex-student of mine and someone with an eye for what's now and relevant to the market she is targeting. Her photos are crisp and clear, easy to appreciate how they could be worn by anyone, directing us to a high street store.

The Blonde Salad (@chiaraferragni) is one of the top bloggers with 4.6 million followers on Instagram, making the Italian fashion celebrity millions of dollars a year. Others include Style Bubble (@susiebubble), Atlantic Pacific (@blaireadiebee), Advanced Style (@advancedstyle) and Tommy Lei (@mybelonging).

These icons of the social media world inspire their followers to copy their style and help to promote the garment and beauty in-

dustry worldwide. It is a far cry from the simple TV or magazine advertising our parents would have watched.

If you have a few hours to spare it is worth the time to search for the bloggers who suit your style, your look, your ethics.

These fashion bloggers have so much influence in a trend led marketplace. If you love reading magazines and looking at the products and photo shoots on the glossy pages you will also love the layouts created by the bloggers on their pages.

It is well worth searching for some of the most popular and influential who publish about their daily experiences, loves, life and unique finds.

Don't forget the newer bloggers who have not been found by the brands to aid in the promotion of their product, although you will find that most are brutally honest in their reviews.

This is fascinating form of reality viewing into the lives of others!

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# Your guide to styling the pale shade this summer



Model wearing Sosandar White Lace Shirt Dress and Snake Print Leather Sandals, available from sosandar.com



Model wearing the Oliver Bonas Keep Growing Placement T-shirt and Between the Lines Wrap Skirt, available from oliverbonas.com



Lauren Santo Domingo

**HEAD-TO-TOE** white looked great on Wimbledon Centre Court on players and spectators alike – but there's no reason this crisp hue should be confined to tennis tournaments, garden parties and holidays.

Especially this summer, because the shops are full of gorgeous pale pieces that will cure you of your aversion to white, and have you embracing it as your new daywear favourite.

Here are three chic ways to wear white now...

1. White trousers

By Katie Wright

White skinny jeans, in case you weren't aware, have had their day. It's all about breezy, wide-leg trousers or kick-flare jeans now, paired with a loose prairie top and block-heeled mules.

- Evans Ivory Hem Tie Top, £28
- Madeleine White Trousers, £69.95 (reduced from £99.95)
- Wallis Ivory Crochet Flute Sleeve Top, £20 (reduced from £33)
- Jigsaw Hoxton Cropped Flare Jeans, £62 (reduced from £89)
- 2. White dresses

Lace and fussy florals are best left for special occasions. Keep it simple with a crisp shirt dress or slouchy T-shirt dress. What to wear with white? You can't go wrong with metallics (try a rose gold two-part heel) or black (pool sliders are the perfect partner for a minimalist tee dress).

- Sosandar White Lace Shirt Dress, £95; Snake Print Leather Sandals, £95
- Paisie Midi T-shirt Dress with Back Vent, £55 (reduced from £70)
- Oliver Bonas Surface Stripe Midi Dress, £79.50
- 3. White skirts

White miniskirts are just a bit TOO tennis player-esque, but a midi skirt? Now that's a winning summer look. Tuck a slim fit tee into a high-waisted skirt for a fresh, youthful feel, or go boho with a loose linen top and strappy sandals.

- Oliver Bonas Keep Growing Placement T-shirt, £25; Between the Lines Wrap Skirt, £75
- New Look White Tie Waist Midi Skirt, £19.99
- Hush Eden Tassel Top, £25 (reduced from £39)
- Madeleine White Skirt, £89 (reduced from £129.95)





Stuart Wilde as Romeo and Aruhan Galieva as Juliet in Watermill Theatre's production

## Vibrant youthful take on greatest romantic tragedy

**Romeo + Juliet**, Wolverhampton Grand HOPEFULLY youngsters, and some not-so-young audience members, will have new enthusiasm for William Shakespeare after The Watermill Theatre's vibrant and energetic production of Romeo and Juliet, re-titled Romeo + Juliet.

Using pop music, sung and played on stage by this talented troupe of actors, the Bard was given a 21st century makeover in a production full of youthful enthusiasm. That was quite fitting too, considering that according to the play Juliet was barely aged 14 at the time Romeo ruined her parents' marriage plans for her.

These young actors, several of them fresh from drama school, invested the story of the star-crossed lovers with vitality and plenty of teen attitude, at an evening performance plus a matinee aimed at students.

Stuart Wilde was charismatic as the tousle-haired leather jacket-clad Romeo. In the balcony scene, his Juliet's 'light through

## Who's a Faker in this mod world?

**The Small Fakers, Who's Who Robin 2, Bilston**

IT was a double bill made in Mod heaven, with the country's top tributes to the Small Faces and The Who joining forces at the leading Black Country R&B venue.

The Small Fakers kicked off in top gear with Whatcha Gonna Do About It and Sha La La La Lee, and kept up the momentum in an hour-long set finishing with a packet of three corks, Tin Soldier, Lazy Sunday and Afterglow.

Led by splendid front-man Matt Bond, who looks, sounds and moves like the late Steve Marriott, the Fakers were at their best on the sweaty, bluesy extended version of You Need Loving, though the audience also loved the Cockney capers of Itchycoo Park and Rene (The Docker's Delight).

### Tommy

Who's Who have a bigger canon of songs to call upon, from the 60s, 70s and 80s, and a Roger Daltrey style bawler in Wayne Garamoni.

I Can See For Miles, The Seeker and the Tommy medley were impressive, as was the difficult to pull off Who Are You. But the emphasis on the 70s material made things less Mod and more prog rock.

If it were a contest, I reckon the Small Fakers won this Mod heavyweight clash on points.

## REVIEWS

yonder window breaks' as she lit up a joint. They had met at Capulet's night club.

Aruhan Galieva was more than a match for Romeo as a guitar-strumming, passionate and petulant Juliet. Lauryn Redding's no-nonsense Northern nurse was a treat.

The production did owe something to Baz Luhrmann's 1996 movie version and the fight scenes were a bit hokey. Sometimes the music drowned out a line of dialogue or the words were too gabbled.

However, this is nit-picking. Director Paul Hart's production obviously loves Shakespeare and wants to communicate that to audiences. It did a good job.

Watermill also presented Twelfth Night during their visit. I hope they come back next year.

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Footballer Jamie Vardy and his wife Rebekah after she gave birth to a boy



Mums-to-be often worry about the effects pregnancy may have on their bodies

# Mums must learn to love the shape of their bodies

By Lisa Salmon

**NEW mums who openly loathe their post-pregnancy bodies are sparking a body confidence crisis in their own children**

Many new mums loathe the shape of their bodies after they've had a baby. But they need to learn to love their new shape, because as well as damaging their own self-esteem, they might be sparking a body confidence crisis in their own children, experts warn.

A study by parenting site Channel Mum found four in 10 children have said they feel fat or don't like their tummy, a third have asked to go on a diet, and 14% have insisted they don't like their body.

Another one in 10 kids think their bottoms are too big, after hearing their mums' similar lament.

Overall, seven in 10 mums say their young children have repeated negative phrases about their appearance after hearing their mothers say it first.

So unless mums learn to love their new shape, they may pass their body issues on to their children.

**BE PROUD OF STRETCHMARKS**  
"Having a bit of a mum tum or some stretchmarks isn't shameful, it's a badge of honour for what your body has gone through," stresses Siobhan Freegard, founder of ChannelMum.com.

Many mums (71%) say they've received negative comments about their post-baby body from both family members and strangers. As a result, the average new mum spends an astonishing £1,871 attempting to get her pre-pregnancy figure back.

But almost three quarters (72%) of mums don't achieve it, and admit to being far less body confident after giving birth.

**BODYSHAMING 'RIDICULOUS'**  
"Bodyshaming in all forms is wrong, but criticising a woman for looking a little different when she's grown a whole new human is ridiculous," insists Freegard.

"Of course it's good to be fit and healthy, but we shouldn't be so obsessed with perfection that we raise a generation of children with body hang-ups."

"Giving birth is the most extreme thing a woman's body can do, so of course the shape is going to change. Having a post-birth body is something to be celebrated, not shamed."

Worryingly, 7% of mums admit to trying to lose weight while pregnant, and a further 16% consider it, despite the proven health risks.

After giving birth, one in 40 resort to expensive body shaping surgery, and 35% say they'd have surgery if they could afford it. Anti-stretch mark treatments are another popular option, while half join a diet club and 13% hire a personal trainer.

**POSITIVE ROLE MODELS**  
Many mums (75%) are calling for ad-



Motherhood brings many joys – but experts warn mums can pass on worries about their body shape to their children



Giovanna Fletcher attending the Glamour Women of the Year Awards



Women are often left with stretch marks after birth

vertisers to use more realistic mum body images in commercials, including ditching images of bikini-clad new mums with taut stomachs on the beach.

They also want celebrities to be more honest, and for those claiming to 'snap back into shape' after childbirth to reveal they've actually followed an intensive diet and exercise regime. Almost two thirds of mums say they now follow celebrity mums who've

been open about their post-birth bodies on social media, with Giovanna Fletcher, Louise Pentland, Rebekah Vardy and Charlotte Louise Taylor voted the most inspiring. And mums want more ordinary mums to share post-baby body snaps online, with 85% wanting post-birth bodies to be celebrated, whatever their shape.

**LOVE YOUR POST-BIRTH BODY**  
Mums' favourite post-birth body part is

breasts, loved by a third of mums. Another third say they're proud of their stretchmarks, 21% like their C-section scar, and 23% are happy with their curvier 'mum tum' stomach - like Rebekah Vardy, wife of Leicester City striker Jamie Vardy. The mum-of-four was criticised by Twitter trolls for being "huge" after the birth of baby Finley in January, but she hit back saying her post-pregnancy figure was normal.

## Meet the food blogger who's one savvy cook

**Student blogger Izy Hossack tells Ella Walker how feeding herself at university has transformed how she cooks**

**IZY Hossack is celebrating finishing her second year at Leeds University, where she studies food science and nutrition, by publishing her second recipe collection, The Savvy Cook.**

The 20-year-old foodie is best known for her blog, Top With Cinnamon, and matching Instagram account (229k followers and counting), where she posts beautifully-lit photos of oozing chocolate chip cookies and chunks of pecan-studded brownies.

The Savvy Cook, however, draws on how she went about feeding herself as a first-year student.

"I'd baked a lot, but I hadn't ever really cooked for myself throughout the whole week, and I had to go food shopping and budget," recalls Izy.

She started menu planning, pooling recipes from cookbooks and online to "keep it interesting", and the result is a stack of simple, intriguing recipes that help you plan ahead, cut waste and stick to your budget.

"I always do that thing where you buy a big bag of spinach because you don't want to buy the tiny one, and then it goes slimy and you never use it up," admits Izy, so she developed a leftovers section, where anything spare from one recipe can be cross-referenced and with other meals it'll fit into.

The book is also vegetarian, partly, again, to keep costs down, and partly because Izy watched a glut of Netflix documentaries on the environmental impact of dairy and meat farming.

"If I'm going to buy meat, I want to buy high-quality stuff," she explains. "It's just really hard to fit that into your budget."

The Savvy Cook offers gluten-free and vegan slants on recipes too, so you can avoid that moment when "you're cooking for friends and one's vegan and one's gluten-free, and you're just like, 'I don't know what to cook you!'"

Food that's accessible, regardless of income or nutritional needs, is crucial to Izy's ethos – which means no obscure ingredients, either. In fact (supermarket-friendly) tahini and miso are as exotic as it gets, and they're featured in multiple recipes, so it's not like "buy this jar of expensive ingredient and let it sit in your cupboard for the next six months!"

Fads then, are a resounding 'No!' "It's so enraging when you're a nutritionist and you read these headlines," says Izy, shooting down the coconut oil trend.

"It's so exclusionary – it's the whole organic vegetable thing, and superfoods. To be healthy, you have to have enough money to buy this thing, and buying plain tomato isn't good enough any more; you have to have the organically grown, biodynamic thing, with spirulina and you have to have turmeric in EVERYTHING you eat," she says, incredulous.

"It's hard enough to get people to eat enough fibre and vegetables!"

Izy, who went to an all-girls school and started baking by herself aged around 10, might have written her first cookbook, Everyday Deliciousness, during her AS-levels, but that doesn't mean she was exempt from the problems and pressures around food.

"I went through a phase of maybe three or four years in my teens, constantly dieting and over-exercising," she remembers. "I definitely had issues around food."

"But I think, through blogging and speaking to other nutritionists, doing my course, the general backlash against clean eating, and body positivity coming out, it's given me more confidence, so now I'm happy."

"I'm going to eat butter; I'm going to eat cake; I'm a nutritionist – I don't care, I'm going to eat sugar, whatever! I know I'm eating a balanced diet and I'm happy with where I am, but I think we have to do a lot more in the future to help younger women, and show them you don't have to be eating 'clean' to be happy."





# Woman stole £600k from own parents' firm

A WOMAN has been jailed for almost three years for stealing more than £600,000 from her family's engineering firm to help her husband start his own business.

Aimee Purchase, 36, was jailed for 32 months for defrauding Stourbridge-based MI Engineering Ltd, owned by her parents Ian and Yvonne Skidmore.

Shrewsbury Crown Court heard that Purchase, who had access to the funds at the family firm where she helped out, carried out the crime after being put under pressure by her husband Rikki Purchase to steal the money so that he could set up on his own.

Prosecuting barrister, Charles Hamer, said: "Aimee Purchase pleaded guilty on April 4, 2016 to committing fraud and the loss to the company totalled £667,175.71.

"The plea was under the Fraud Act but not all of it would have been related to her criminality. Her figure came down to about £570,000.

"Ultimately Rikki Purchase pleaded guilty and the total cash converted by him was £191,620.98."

## Blame

Mr Hamer said the couple, from Much Wenlock, near Bridgnorth, were arrested in July 2015 when the offences came to light.

He told the court that Rikki Purchase initially gave a not guilty plea to the offence and the case was listed for trial. He then changed his plea which resulted to the pair, of Hunters Gate, being sentenced together in relation to the case.

Aimee Purchase admitted fraud and Rikki Purchase admitted the conversion of criminal property which he



**Aimee Purchase - stole £600k from a firm owned by her parents**

knew was the proceeds of criminal conduct between March 2013 and August 2014.

Judge Jim Tindal said he had received a letter from Mrs Skidmore who believed her daughter had been put up to the crime.

He said: "It is perfectly obvious to me that Aimee Purchase used her position to siphon the funds under the influence or pressure from her husband. "She was the only one who had access to the money."

Sentencing Rikki Purchase, 37, to two years jail, suspended for two years, Judge Tindal told him: "You



**Rikki Purchase - two year sentence suspended for two years**

take a significant amount of responsibility for what happened and you have pleaded guilty to quite a different offence than your wife."

"The main reason I'm suspending the sentence is due to the welfare of the children.

"You must also carry out 250 hours of unpaid work in the community and attend rehabilitation 15 activity days with probation."

He added that Aimee Purchase must serve up to 16 months of the term before being released on curfew.

# Super Mario artist is back in action at cafe



**Abdul Qadus, manager of the Station Cafe, Stourbridge, with the Mario Lanza beer mat left by the mystery artist**

A MYSTERIOUS artist who illustrates the face of an opera singer onto beer mats has chosen to leave behind his latest work at a Stourbridge cafe.

The artist, who signs their work with the initials 'AJW', draws pictures of 1950s opera singer and actor Mario Lanza and leaves them in pubs and cafes. His true identity has remained a mystery for almost half a century whilst his work has become collectable.

The Station Cafe, in Stourbridge, has become the latest location where the artist has visited, which left owner Abdul Qadus surprised and delighted.

"The first artwork was left a couple of months ago," said Abdul. "I didn't take any notice until one of my customers said 'do you know who this person is?'. They said this artist is famous. He goes around the country leaving beer mats with illustrations."

Abdul believed the ghost writer, a man, first visited his cafe in April. But he got to know the artist after he left a signed beer mat in June, which featured a drawing of Mario Lanza and the signature 'AJW'. Abdul has sworn to keep the artist's identity a secret.

"I have to respect his wishes," he said. But did reveal the mystery artist enjoys fish and chips with mushy peas and sometimes steak and kidney pie.

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# What a feeling as New Alex season announced

## Fat Friends and Flashdance

**FROM** iconic musicals to favourite children's characters to Derren Brown and Katie Price – there is something for everyone in the newly-unveiled autumn season line-up at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre.

The highly-anticipated Cilla The Musical, Fay Mellor's new production of Fat Friends starring cricket legend Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff, West End smash Jersey Boys and The Sound of Music are some of the hit shows coming to the theatre in the coming months.

And there is fun for all the family with such favourites as Miracle on 34th Street The Musical, David Walliams' Awful Auntie and the acclaimed Shrek The Musical.

### Riotous

First up in the new season are Strictly Come Dancing stars and West End favourites Vincent and Flavia who return with their new show Tango Moderno from September 19-23.

Inspired by the hit film, Broadway's Tony Award nominated Bring It On The Musical somersaults into Birmingham from September 25 to 30 as part of its first ever UK Tour.

British classic Monty Python's Spamalot returns from October 3-7 with a riotous comedy full of misfit knights, killer rabbits, dancing nuns and ferocious Frenchmen.

Cilla The Musical is a heart-warming musical adaptation of the critically acclaimed ITV mini-series by Jeff Pope, based on the early life of Cilla Black. The musical score is the ultimate soundtrack to the 60s including Cilla's greatest hits Anyone Who Had A Heart, Alfie, and Something Tells Me.

Kara Lily Hayworth fought off competition from thousands of hopefuls in nationwide auditions to take the lead role in the show running from October 10-14.

EastEnders' favourites Jessie Wallace and Paul Bradley lead the cast of Deathtrap, a spine chiller visiting the New Alex from November 7-11 which tells the tale of Sidney Bruhl, a once successful writer who is in the grip of chronic writer's block when young playwright Clifford Anderson sends him a brilliant whodunnit.



Kara Lily Hayworth plays Cilla Black



Andrew Flintoff appears in Fat Friends

Birmingham Musical and Operatic Society (BMOS) bring their production of the Christmas classic Miracle on 34th Street to the theatre from November 14-18. After the sell-out success of Gangsta Granny, Birmingham Stage Company return with their next David Walliams' adaptation, Awful Auntie, from November 22 to 26.

Iconic hits such as Maniac, Gloria and What A Feeling are back in Flashdance The Musical, which stars Strictly Come Dancing's Joanne



Flashdance star, Strictly's Joanne Clifton



Flavia Cacace joins Vincent Simone on stage

Master of illusion Derren Brown returns next week (July 24-26) for his latest show Underground.

In an audience with Katie Price on November 1, she Katie will perform her brand new single I Got U and talk about her life stories, while Mitchell Brunings, lead of the sell-out musical One Love, comes to Birmingham on October 11 and 23 to perform one off special Marley Reprised, bringing a full evening of Bob Marley's greatest hits to the stage.

Clifton and A1 heart-throb Ben Adams. The musical runs from December 4 to 9.

After a sell-out run in 2014, West End and Broadway phenomenon Jersey Boys, telling the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons is also back for Christmas 2017, running from December 16 to January 6.

The Sound of Music returns to the stage in January. Based on Baroness Maria Von Trapp's 1949 autobiography, this lavish new staging, produced by Bill Kenwright, runs from January 16 to 20.

Meanwhile, from the team behind Gaslight which was a hit at the theatre in January, returns with the masterful thriller Strangers On A Train. Based on the 1950 novel by Patricia Highsmith it runs from January 29 to February 3. February half term sees the arrival of ogre Shrek. It runs from February 14 to 25.

### Musical

The electrifying musical This is Elvis, has also been announced, and will play from March 19 to 24. The production, from Bill Kenwright and Laurie Mansfield, recreates all the drama leading to the musical event of the year in 1968, which was the first live TV special for Elvis Presley. It features, of course, many of his greatest hits.

A highlight is a musical version and stage debut of one of Kay Mellor's Fat Friends The Musical. Running from April 3-7, the show focuses on the characters at a regular weight loss group and the cast includes Andrew "Freddie" Flintoff, Jodie Prenger and Natalie Anderson.

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For more details, or for tickets, visit atgtickets.com/birmingham or call 0844 871 3011.

**Fun day set to be bigger and better than ever**

TIPTON Community Funday is back and this year's 11th annual event is set to be bigger and better than ever.

The event is being held on Sunday at Victoria Park, from 11.30am to 6pm. Entry is free, with small charges for some attractions.

The day will be packed full of activities for all ages including fairground rides, car boots, dancing, a snake man, gatka, karate demonstrations and band music on the stage. Bouncy castles, a climbing wall, cricket tournament, Punch and Judy and a gospel choir are also planned. There will also be health and beauty stalls as well as various cultural and traditional food stalls.

The event has been organised by Bangladeshi Women's Association (BWA) in partnership with Sandwell Council and supported by many partners including the police, Friends of the Victoria Park and many others.

Pauline Hodgetts, chair of the Friends of the Victoria Park, said: "This is the 11th community fun day and we are delighted that Victoria Park is used to bring so many people and organisations together in making Tipton wonderful place to live. We are expecting this year's event to be bigger and better than ever!"

## Great outdoors best way to relax

SPENDING time in the great outdoors is the favourite way for people in the West Midlands to unwind, according to a survey.

A poll to mark National Parks Week from July 24-30, has revealed that people in the region rate national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty as their top places to visit. A quarter of people polled (26 per cent) said that what makes a place irreplaceable to them is that it improves their mood. This was the more important than spending time with their family, 21pc, and spending time with their community, 20pc.



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# Glitterballs and a gorilla – it can only be Bill Oddie

IT features buddhas, glitterballs, skulls and fake turtle doves – in fact, there’s a surprise around every corner in Bill Oddie’s garden in leafy Hampstead, north west London.

An avid birdwatcher and conservationist, the former Springwatch presenter and star of Seventies comedy series The Goodies admits his outdoor haven, the size of half a tennis court, is a space his wife describes as “ludicrous”, as highlighted in his latest book, Tales Of A Ludicrous Bird Gardener.

**:: It’s inspired by Disney World**

“I had nothing to do with gardens for a long time. When we moved here 25 years ago, there was a lawn and that was it. We labelled certain corners, the inspiration being Disney World. The main point is to keep me amused. I cannot go through a day without having at least an hour in the garden.”

His stash of unusual knick-knacks includes a resin gorilla, fake spiders, a clutch of model animals and birds, a Borneo corner and around 100 gnomes of all shapes and sizes.

**:: Plants grow at random**

The planting, too, is as random as the riot of fake dinosaurs, birds and themes. It features an experimental area, where he plants random herbs and wild flowers, a large pink mallow sitting in front of a yellow hypericum (rose of Sharon) and an assortment of trees. A palm and a willow rub shoulders, a self-seeded sycamore flourishes, while birds shelter in a horse chestnut and a silver birch.

Oddly-shaped old tree branches, which he has picked up from the heath, serve as perches and hideaways for some of his green-fingered objets d’art.

**:: A gorilla guards the entrance**

“He’s only a little one,” says Bill, with a chuckle. “I thought it was rather sweet to have a gorilla in an area peopled by little animals and the live birds themselves. I like to think it’s the spirit of gorilla that we all have.

“Birds won’t recognise a model animal that is meant to scare them away. I’ve put fake birds of prey around the place and, within minutes, there are blue tits perched on their heads.”

Next to the gorilla are miniature horses and cows, which Bill is almost obsessive about where and in which direction they should be placed.

**:: He’s created a spooky corner**

“I haven’t the faintest idea how that came about. Everything has to be sprayed white. There are two skulls on juju sticks, which my daughter brought back from a music festival and are traditionally used in black magic rituals.”

**:: It’s got four ponds**

“I’m a bit obsessed with the ponds. When we first moved in there was a lawn and a concrete slab, so the first thing I did was knock that to pieces with a sledge-hammer and line it, to have quite a big pond.

“Over the years the pond situation has been growing towards the house, where there is more sun. Frogs love the ponds.”

**:: He’s fascinated by gnomes**

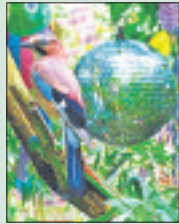
“I have nearly 100 gnomes. I remember going to Chelsea Flower Show one year and someone asked me what I thought of it. I said, ‘Not enough gnomes’. When Laura and I got married, we were going to have a party here and we said to the guests, ‘We don’t want any normal presents. Please just bring a gnome.’ Some of them couldn’t bring themselves to do it, but most people did.”

**:: He’s been stung by bee visitors**

Tree bees took over an old nest box in Bill’s garden a couple of years ago.

“They come from the continent. They started appearing in Britain about 10 years ago and are spreading. Anyone who has them should know they’re very good at defence. They have one or two guards in front of the box. One day I got chased around the garden by one. It eventually stung me. But I like them because they do little balletic movements outside the box before they set off.”

**:: Tales Of A Ludicrous Bird Gardener** by Bill Oddie is published by Reed New Holland, at £16.99.



Pretty white flowers – but bindweed will strangle your plants

# Joy in the borders makes up for missing out on peas

**ROSS UNDERWOOD**

Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall



**BROAD beans. This might be an unusual way to start a sentence but I thought I would mention how well my early sowings had done.**

They have come to an end now but we have enjoyed them. Because they are such mainstays of the vegetable patch and I have been patiently expecting them since they were sown last winter it is like saying goodbye to old friends.

I prefer to pick them when the pods are small and the beans only about the size of a 5p coin. They can be used raw as an addition to salads or put straight into a risotto and allowed to cook with the rice.

My absolute favourite has to be broad beans liver and bacon with the liver floured, fried gently and only just done. The gravy is to die for though it’s hard to find companions who will eat offal so it is often a solitary pleasure.

I have heard many tales of woe from growers of runner beans and peas this year who planted and were caught out by a dry spell.

I have to confess to a some disappointment myself. A family holiday meant that the pigeons enjoyed the peas before I did and my next batch of peas and beans have needed a lot of water to get away at all.

I have had more success in the herbaceous border and with my containers.

The regale lily bulbs (Lilium regale) have put on a magnificent show.

The large trumpet flowers white inside with a yellow throat and a pink back are filling the warm air with scent. It is a thick heavy scent and you feel that you have to wade through it once it has you in its grasp.

Of all the bulbs that I take from containers and plant in the garden these lilies are some of the most successful. They like plenty of sun and good drainage.

I always put a handful of gravel underneath them when planting. I usually plant in groups digging a hold be enough to lift them straight from the container into the ground without breaking them apart.

Another scented favourite are the Philadelphus also called mock orange.

They are members of the same family as hydrangea and are really indispensable garden shrubs.

They give a good display even on poor or chalky soils.

Most have white fragrant flowers borne in June or July.

The old flowered wood should be cut out after flowering leaving wood produced this season to take its place.

They can become large shrubs over time



With its large trumpet flowers, Lilium regale puts on a magnificent show of colour in the garden and has a heavy scent



Philadelphus – or mock orange – does well even in chalky soils

though if this happens the whole thing can be cut to ground level from where new growth will spring.

The most commonly encountered is Philadelphus coronarius which is a strong upright growing species even in dry ground.

The cultivar “Virginal” is still perhaps the best double.

Danger does lurk deep within the border

in the hooded flowers of monkshood or aconitum.

Though highly poisonous they are worth having bead use they are so amenable as to soil and aspect. A. x bicolor, A. carnichaelii and A. napellus are all good to have and will spread the flowering season from early summer to autumn.

Aconitum vulparia also known as A. ly-

# Don’t allow smothering weeds to get you in a bind

IF those telltale tendrils are twisting their way up your plants, chances are bindweed has got a hold in your beds, borders and hedges.

It’s one of the hardest perennial weeds to eradicate because of its deep roots. If dig the weed out, the roots break easily and each piece left in the ground will produce a new plant.

It chokes your plants and can quickly take over whole sections of garden, smothering everything in its path. So how can you tackle it?

**SNIP OFF WEED AT BASE**

Once you have identified the plant (whose thick white roots run deep and also run horizontally), see how much of it there is. If you just have a small patch, remove the top growth weekly to weaken and eventually kill the plants. Cut the bindweed at the base with scissors or shears, which will force it to use up its energy reserves in its roots, which will eventually kill it – but you have to do it regularly.

**SPRAY IT**

Use a spot weedkiller, taking care not to let it spread on to other plants, preferably a systemic

type – glyphosate – which the plants’ leaves will absorb and take down to the roots, killing the whole thing. Do this in early summer when the bindweed is in full growth.

**POUR BOILING WATER OVER IT**

If you don’t want to use weedkiller, pour boiling water over the bindweed and around three inches beyond where it is growing, to kill as much root as possible. You may have to do this regularly until there is no further sign of it.

**DIG UP AFFECTED PLANTS**

If your plants are engulfed in a mass of bindweed, you’ll have to dig up those you want to save and untangle them from the weeds. Wait several weeks until the weeds are growing strongly, then spray with glyphosate. After a few weeks, all the weeds should have died and it should be safe to replant.

**COVER THE AREA**

If you garden organically, dig up the plants you want to save, removing weed roots from the plants’ own roots, then cover the whole area with black polythene and leave it for a year.



Highly poisonous – hooded aconitum flowers

coctonum is also worth growing.

It gets its common name “Wolf’s Bane” because it was used as a poisonous bait for wolves in olden days.

Like its blue relatives it has dark divided green leaves though the hooded flower is white or parchment colour and quite tall.

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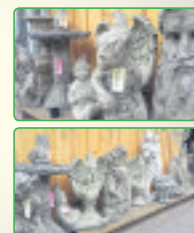
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**MICHELLE**, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427897

**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

**EMMA** 56, active and always on the go, seeks fit, active, country loving guy who shares passion for the outdoors. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427811

**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

**ATTRACTIVE** lady, 57yrs, great sense of humour, now looking for good times and good memories. Hoping to meet gent any age. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427883

**EMILY**, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

**GEMMA**, 25yrs, green eyed brunette lady, loves to read raunchy books so has a huge imagination, hoping to expand upon it in real life. Call me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427881

**TAMIKA**, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365

**ATTRACTIVE** lonely widow, mid 70s seeking gent for friendship. Pls call or text. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427879

**SAMANTHA**, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979

**HARRIETT** 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long legs and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205

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**SHAUN**, 50, honest, reliable, OHOC, employed, animal lover, likes walks in the country, meals out in country pubs, walking my dogs, looking for my soul mate. If you would like to know more get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427497

**TALL**, 63-year-old male, seeking n/s female, 45+, for hassle free fun times, in the Wolverhampton and surrounding areas. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424291

**MALE** 46, brown hair/eyes, average looks/build, loving, caring, understanding, seeks female to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410845

**JIM**, 51yrs, N/S, retired, enjoys holidays abroad and at home, weekends away, days out, meals out, looking to meet a female who enjoys similar interests, for long lasting relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423705

**HELLO!** A friend with benefits, that's how I would describe myself. Mature Birmingham male, would like to be exactly that to an attractive lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427327

**YOUNG** 59 male, separated, looking for lady aged 45 to 60 for adult fun and maybe relationship. Text only. Mailbox: 5863873

**MALE**, 49, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783

**ADVENTUROUS** 36 year old, slim, dark hair, has many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235

**MALE** 40 looking for sexy adventurous lady for some mad Summer time partying at my barn conversion with hot tub and countryside. Text only. Mailbox: 5850530

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**MATURE** bi xd looking for a mature gay or bi male in the Birmingham area. Cannot accommodate. ATA. Text only replies. Mailbox: 5748692

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**BI** male looking for fun and friendship. NSA. Text only Replies. Mailbox: 5553694

**GAY** feminine female with GSOH WLTm gay feminine females for friendship, possible relationship. Text only. Mailbox: 5631357

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**ATTRACTIVE** lady, 51yrs, loves the countryside, walking, fun times. WLTm a genuine man for romance, relationship. Call or text me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427873

**CAROLINE**, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated "some call me posh" married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 427533

**RACHAEL**, 42yrs, naughty girl who needs lots of pleasure. Call me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427871

**EMILY**, kind caring lady, recently widowed and lonely. I am 57yrs old and hoping to chat with a nice chap 60+. Please text me. Tel only. Mailbox 4164240

**MICHELLE**, 28yrs blue eyed blonde with busty figure. I'm very mature for my age and hope to meet a man to care for. I'm willing to please. Call or text me and I will get straight back to you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427649

**TOKKIA**, Nigerian lady, very attractive with attractive, caring and kind. I'm a good cook and would love to find a nice man to spoil and pamper. I am late 50s but look young and fit. Seeking gent 58+. Text Only. Mailbox 4025379

**BROWN** eyed Brummie female 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out WLTm male 67-74 for LTR. Text only replies. Mailbox: 5877942

**PAM**, 40, cuddly feminine young looking female, OHAC, financially secure, looking for fun times without complications with like-minded male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427753

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**HELLO**, my name is Pia, I am a very petite, kind and respectful Asian girl, hoping to meet an older white man. I'm 29yrs old and have just moved her. Text me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427611

**KAZ** blue eyed bubbly female 38, full of life, OHAC, employed, looking for nice N/S responsible middle aged male for fun times, nothing serious. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427607

**ANNETTA**, hoping to meet a very caring, loving male, 55-75, someone genuine and down to earth, to enjoy company and hopefully share a future together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427301

**MANDY** divorced independent 46yr old single mum, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427581

**SUE**, 47, attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTm someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427549

**LINDA** a lonely petite mature lady looking for nice caring male up to 65yrs who also has lots of love to give for hopeful relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427487

**SALLY** 37, blue-eyed blonde, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427461

**BECKY**, 30 something lady. Full of laughter, very open minded and discreet. Hoping to meet similar minded gent who is older than me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427495

**MARGARET** is in her 60s, she's young looking, blue-eyed blonde, kind, loving with lots of qualities. Seeking mature gent for mutual life's pleasures. Please call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427493

**CHRISTINE**, young looking 43yrs, kind with lovely blue eyes. Genuine, loving. WLTm gent with GSOH, must be older than me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427491

**HELLO**, I'm 58yrs and called Marie. I'm tall and seeking a man who likes to look at me. I am black and very sensual. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427475

**JANE**, mature blonde lady, loves jokes, countryside, driving, cosy nights in. I'm solvent and seek a gent 70+. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427473

**TRUDY**, 70 something lady seeks gent. I'm broadminded and will respond to all calls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427471

**BROWN** eyed Brummie female 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out WLTm male, 67-74, for LTR. Text only. Mailbox: 5877942

**LADY**, early 70s, single, softly rounded, loving, lively, educated, long red hair, artist, seeks tall, tender male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427399

**CAROL**, brown eyes, brown hair, 5ft3, full time care assistant, own place, likes gardening, TV, WLTm somebody similar who has a car to take me for days out and meals out, hopefully leading to LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427383

**SALLY** 37, blue-eyed blonde, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427461

**CHRISTINA** 38 very pretty petite trainee nurse looking for N/S male companionship to enjoy meals/drinks out, leading to more maybe. Age/looks and status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427421

**SHARON** medium built lovely, 33yrs, pale complexion, nice eyes, feminine, outgoing, confident, enjoys varied interests. WLTm all round nice guy for adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427275

## Single Men

**SINGLE** male, 43, looking for female friends for txt, phone chats, maybe more. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6017886

**MALE** 40s, 5ft 8ins, brown hair, seeks lovely honest girl for fun and friendship please. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6018513

**MARK** 40s, from the Birmingham area WLTm a female, any nationality, for LTR. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6016342

**MALE**, a young 60 would love to meet a cuddly lady. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6016333

**MALE**, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923

**JAY**, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303

**SHAUN**, 50, honest, reliable, OHOC, employed, animal lover, likes walks in the country, meals out in country pubs, walking my dogs, looking for my soul mate. If you would like to know more get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427497

**MALE**, 50, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783

**Hi** my name is Jay. I'm looking for a lady to have a lovely evening with, maybe once or twice a week. Looking forward to hearing from you soon. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427927

**MALE** 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking gentle, honest, caring female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413945

**GENT**, 65, seeks discreet lady, for special times, mutually beneficial to both, with that special lady. Wolverhampton and surrounding areas. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427529

**MALE**, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, honest lady, for fun times and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831

**Hi** my name is Ben. I am 43 years old, 5ft7, slim build, smart dresser, looking for a bored similar lady for naughty texting. Text only Replies. Mailbox: 6007244

**PHIL** 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875

**GENUINE** 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Wolverhampton. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405551

**GENUINE** male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no strings discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411461

**MALE** 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414991

**MALE**, 51, 5ft11, romantic, sporty, seeks lady for holidays, meals out, concerts, cinema and theatre and to share good times. All calls answered. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427841

**LONELY** man, 68, white, GSOH, happy go lucky, seeks lady friend, 50-60, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427797

**TALL**, dark, attractive male, 57, WLTm an attractive female for discreet daytime fun, 25-50. Can travel. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425759

**GENTLEMAN**, kind, considerate, tactile, thoughtful and caring, hobbies include growing fuschias and vintage tractors, looking for a country girl, someone with no plans of grandeur. Truth and trust number 1 as I trust you so you tell me the truth, and vice versa. Looking for someone to hold and love forever. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427791

**COLIN**, five foot eight, blue eyes, bundle of fun to be around, likes growing fuschias for showing, vintage tractor for showing, week-ends away, going out and staying in WLTm a lady for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420089

**ANDY** 58, single, self-employed, fit, WLTm attractive fashionable lady, non-smoker, who likes to keep in shape, for friendship. Text only replies. Mailbox: 5503219

**MALE**, 57, medium build, WLTm a lady 50-60 to put a smile back on my face, would like to take out fishing, or on my bike. Text only replies. Mailbox: 5838916

**MARK**, 25yrs, 6ft6in, tall, good slim body with my own place. Seeks older lady who is still up for it. Txt me. Text only replies. Mailbox: 5979541

**MALE**, 52 and single, looking for a female, 34+, looking for love and a relationship and more. Likes cuddles and kisses. Text only replies. Mailbox: 5924814

**NICE** old-fashioned gent, seeks kind, caring romantic lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416905

**STEVE**, 55, WLTm a lady for fun on a regular or occasional basis. If you are interested please get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427567

**GENUINE** male, young 57, medium build, single, kind, caring, good heart, GSOH, seeks attractive lady 35-55 for fun & friendship, possible LTR. Text only. Mailbox: 5321154

**COLIN**, 50, kind, loving, seeks cuddly, large-kind, loving lady, 45-55, for LTR love/romance. Must like cuddles, kisses and holding hands. Text only. Mailbox: 5892643

**JOHN** very young 69, seeking mature discreet lady, 40 to 70, for discreet fun. Text only. Mailbox: 5846609



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# I'll sing for René with Power of Love

**W**hen Celine Dion takes to the stage at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena on Thursday – before returning to the venue on August 3 – she'll be watched over by the love of her life.

Celine's late husband, René Angélil, died last year. But he remains with her every minute of the day as she continues to grieve. The duo were inseparable and he remains permanently in her thoughts.

"I think I will probably grieve for the rest of my life.

"René has prepared me for all my life since I'm 12. I have never met another man in my life, never kissed another man in my life.

"I miss him a lot. I miss him a lot — for my partner, for the man I was embracing, kissing, making love with. My worries, my dreams . . ."

Celine says the couple made the best of their last weeks and months together. "No one chooses to be sick.

"Life imposes for you to be sick and you have the option to be strong or not be strong.

"But to be surrounded by the right people helps a lot because, if you know you will die, make the best of it.

"I proved to René that he was there for me and I'm going to be there for him — and I'm still there for him."

She still speaks to him and asks for advice. And, having sold 250 million records, she still hears his voice.

"He did suffer for three years. A lot.

"I took a year off and I said, 'My living well is to be with you, it's not my career. You are my career, you are my life'.

"That's what a wife does, that's what a mother does, that's what a performer does. I took care of him the best way I could.

PROUD

"We talked a lot and I took notes every day. I had my Post-its and my crayons and my book, and everything he wanted or questioned, or he thought of, I wrote it down.

"I reassured him it was going to be done his way — he chose the songs at his funeral, the way he wanted it, everything to a T. And I respected that.

"I'm extremely proud of my children. Proud of what my husband has prepared me for without knowing. Today I can tell you I am very strong. At one point I showed my children to stand up. Even though they don't have a Papa anymore, Mama is here. But Papa is in their heart."

Her husband's passing has had a profound effect on Celine. It has changed her outlook on life and given her a new appetite to live life fully — and to encourage her children to do likewise.

"It is something that I had no choice to take charge of, that I am proud of — to prepare my children [for] their dad's passing. And that was a lesson for me, that you never know when things like this strike and you need to take charge. It was a lesson for me, but they're doing great."

"It's best to never wait for tomorrow to do what can be done today."

She's a remarkable figure who has sold 250 million records — the second most successful female artist to Madonna.

At the age of 12, Celine recorded a demo tape of a song she had written with her mother. They sent the tape to the manager and producer René Angélil, who handled the career of popular French singer Ginette Reno. After hearing the tape and inviting Celine to perform for him in person, René signed her immediately under the

Because you loved me — Celine will sing for late hubby, René



condition that he would have complete control over her career. He mortgaged his own home to finance her debut album, La Voix du bon Dieu (The Voice of God).

By the age of 18, Celine had recorded nine French albums and won numerous Felix and Juno awards (the Canadian equivalent of a Grammy Award). In 1988, she won the Eurovision Song Contest representing Switzerland in Dublin, Ireland, and her performance was broadcast live in countries throughout Europe, the Middle East, Australia and Japan. After this taste of international acclaim, she began looking to the south, and American stardom.

Her real breakthrough into pop music stardom came in 1992, when she recorded the theme to Disney's hit animated feature Beauty and the Beast, a

duet with Peabo Bryson. The song, Beauty and the Beast, made it to number nine on the Billboard Hot 100 and won both a Grammy and an Academy Award.

It was featured on her second English album,

*It's best to never wait for tomorrow to do what can be done today*

Celine Dion, which became her first gold record in the United States and sold more than 12 million copies internationally.

The undeniable success of her self-titled effort, also including the hit If You Asked Me To, which made it to number four on the Billboard Hot 100 and number one on the adult contemporary chart, allowed Dion to launch her first headlining tour in the US.

In 1994, Dion happily merged her personal and professional life when she married René, who was 26 years her senior. René and his second wife had divorced in the 1980s, and, around that same time, he and Celine had begun a romantic relationship. Engaged in 1991, the couple tied the knot at Montreal's Notre Dame Basilica, in an elaborate ceremony that was celebrated throughout Canada.

She also scored a series of international number one hits, including The Power of Love, Think Twice, Because You Loved Me, It's All Coming Back to Me Now, and, of course, My Heart Will Go On, which featured on the soundtrack to one of the biggest grossing films of all time, Titanic, starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

\* For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.





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Family days: Knights and Princesses, Thursday 27 July, Animal Day, Thursday 17 August (with visitors from Blacks Vets, Dudley Zoo and

the Greyhound Trust) and on Bank Holiday Monday (28 August) a Traditional Family Day as the International Festival of Glass draws to a close.

We love families of all shapes and sizes! Bring a picnic, bring your dog and enjoy the canal side location. Take part in our free Garden Gnome Hunt or Secret Fairy Door Trail and watch hot glass blowing demonstrations.

Why travel for hours when you can visit us right on your doorstep?

★ SUMMER SPECIAL ★  
Free adult space when accompanied by a paying child. Only available Monday 24 and Friday 28 July for 'Fused glass bunting'. Child's place costs £5.90. This must be booked in advance.



Des O'Connor & Jimmy Tarbuck



## Showbiz legends with a Grand night of anecdotes

Two showbiz veterans combine for a one-night only evening of star-studded anecdotes in Wolverhampton on Saturday.

Stars of TV and the Royal Variety Performances, Des O'Connor and Jimmy Tarbuck come together, accompanied by music and video to reminisce at the Grand Theatre.

O'Connor, now aged 85, has spent more than 60 years in the public eye. As well as hosting his own chat show and presenting game shows such as Take Your Pick, O'Connor has recorded 36 albums and has had four top-ten singles. He also became famous as the

source of gags by comedy double act Morecambe and Wise.

Liverpudlian comic Tarbuck, 77, was a regular host of Sunday Night At The London Palladium and Live From Her Majesty's and fronted several game shows including Winner Takes All.

"The show with Des is a lot of fun, I promise you. It's not like going to a show, it's like being allowed into a party," said Jimmy. "The reception all over the country, from the London Palladium to the regional theatres, has been incredible."

For further details visit [www.grandtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk) or call 01902 429212.

## Natasha steps up as Funny Girl star

Funny Girl brought global fame to Barbra Streisand 50 years ago, on Broadway, in the West End and then as a movie musical, and boasts such iconic songs as People and Don't Rain On My Parade.

It tells the story of Fanny Brice who went from burlesque to Broadway, becoming one of America's biggest stage and radio stars of the 1920s and 30s.

The latest revival has also confirmed Sheridan Smith as Britain's biggest current star of

musical theatre and she graced the stage at Birmingham Hippodrome earlier this year.

Now the show may be producing a third star with Natasha J Barnes stepping into the role at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday. And she is no stranger to the role, having shared the limelight with Sheridan in the West End and on tour.

She will get steadfast support from a company that includes former Pop Idol finalist and now in-demand leading man Darius Campbell in the male lead role of Nick Arnstein. They are pictured together,

Other shows to look out for include Voice of the Heart, a tribute to the music of The Carpenters at the Grand tomorrow night (Friday). A version of Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book combines street dance and circus skills at The Patrick Centre, within Birmingham Hippodrome, until Saturday.

The People's Orchestra present Superhero Symphonies, featuring music from the movies at the New Alexandra Theatre on Saturday.

The same venue hosts former X Factor winner Joe McElderry on July 27.



## Mental magic from trickster Derren

Illusionist Derren Brown will bring mind-bending magic and mental trickery to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Wednesday.

The 46-year-old star has baffled audiences in theatres and watching TV with his incredible feats, winning two Laurence Olivier Awards as well as a BAFTA.

His show Underground will feature some of his most famous illusions. It is not suitable for under 12s.

Visit [www.atgtickets.com](http://www.atgtickets.com) for further details.



## Miss Saigon is the summer blockbuster

Cameron Mackintosh's acclaimed revival of Boubli and Schönberg's musical Miss Saigon lands at Birmingham Hippodrome for nine weeks from July 26. From the same pair who created Les Misérables, Miss Saigon is loosely based on Puccini's Madame Butterfly in its tragic romantic tale of a love affair between a Vietnamese bar girl and American GI during the last days of the Vietnam war.

Miss Saigon has become one of the most successful musicals in history, running for ten years in the West End and on Broadway. The show has been performed in 28 countries and in 15 different languages, and has won more than 40 awards. In Birmingham the central roles of Kim and Chris will be played Sooha Kim and Ashley Gilmour. For more details see [www.birminghamhippodrome.com](http://www.birminghamhippodrome.com)

## Summer at the Cone

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\*T&C's - Offer valid on Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd July 2017. Saving of £5 off admission is only applicable on a family admission ticket. Or this voucher can be used to save 30% off all other single tickets. No photocopies or reproductions will be accepted. Voucher must be handed over in advance of paying. Maximum of one voucher per person, or maximum of one voucher for a family ticket.

CHRONICLE



CHOICE



Mel Giedroyc

**Pitch Battle (BBC1, 7.25pm)**  
The grand final of the singing contest arrives, as Mel Giedroyc assembles the six most successful entrants for their final performances. As ever, Gareth Malone and Kelis are tasked with assessing each group's skills, and for this last round, they are joined on the panel by Deke Sharon. The final begins with a musical mash-up, followed by a Showstopper round in which the ensembles collaborate with stars including Will Young, Chaka Khan, Bebe Rexha and Seal, among others. Three groups will be eliminated at this stage, leaving the other three to face off in an a capella contest, which will decide the two finalists. The ultimate winner will be named via public vote. Last in the series.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadiya's British Food Adventure. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Athletics: Diamond League Monaco Highlights. **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Flog It! (R) **3.30** Film: Kung Fu Panda 2. (2011) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Jack Black. **4.50** Film: Shrek the Third. (2007) Animated sequel, with the voice of Mike Myers. **6.15** BBC News. **6.25** Regional Programme. **6.35** Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present as famous faces take part in the general knowledge quiz in which they try to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public. (R) **7.25** Pitch Battle. The grand final of the singing contest arrives, as Gareth Malone, Kelis and Deke Sharon whittle the remaining six acts down to just two ahead of a public vote. Last in the series. **9.00** Casualty. Part two of two. Scott is admitted to the ED after taking a nasty fall during a fight with Mickey, and while Ethan is initially assigned to take care of him, the powers-that-be quickly realise this is a bad idea. Meanwhile, with both her sons in hospital, Ellissom matriarch Denise turns up on the ward, and it is not long before she discovers the reason her boys were scrapping. Connie delights in bringing Grace into the department to show off her recovery, but when the youngster gets in the way of her mother's work, it becomes clear their relationship still isn't on an even keel. **9.50** BBC News: Weather.; National Lottery Update. **10.10** Would I Lie to You? Team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack are joined by Rhod Gilbert, Jamie Laing, Tracy-Ann Oberman and Claudia Winkleman, aiming to deceive their opponents with plausible lies. (R) **10.40** Film: Eagle Eye. (2008) Two strangers go on the run from the authorities after receiving phone calls warning their lives are in danger. Thriller, with Shia LaBeouf and Michelle Monaghan. **12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

BBC2

**7.10** Film: Herbie Rides Again. (1974) **8.35** Film: Megamind. (2010) **10.00** Monty Halls' Great Irish Escape. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Nigel and Adam's Farm Kitchen. (R) **1.00** Film: Becoming Jane. (2006) Romantic period drama, starring Anne Hathaway and James McAvoy. **2.50** My Friend Jane. **3.20** Jane Austen: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.20** University Challenge. (R) **4.50** Gardeners' World. (R) **5.50** The Sweet Makers: A Tudor Treat. (R) **6.50** Proms Extra. New series. Katie Derham returns with the weekly magazine show, which offers a round-up of highlights from across the annual BBC Proms season. In this first edition, she reviews the opening week of Proms 2017, with help from a selection of guests. Among the performances appraised tonight are a rendition of Elgar's Second Symphony, conducted by Daniel Barenboim, and a selection of memorable music from the movies, courtesy of John Williams. **7.30** Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring's men acquire a boat, planning to use it for coastal patrols, but they get lost in fog and believe they have crossed the Channel when they finally reach dry land. (R) **8.00** Golf: The Open. Eilidh Barbour presents highlights of the third day of the prestigious event, which takes place at Royal Birkdale Golf Club in Southport. The players to have made the cut will have been attempting to move themselves into contention for the Claret Jug with a strong round today, as they aim to succeed 2016 champion Henrik Stenson. Commentary by Peter Allis and Andrew Cotter. **10.00** Performance Live: Why It's Kicking Off Everywhere. Kirsty Wark introduces a production of journalist Paul Mason's "popular protest" play, which tells the story of modern revolutions, broadcast live from the Young Vic. **11.00** QI XL. Panelists Sue Perkins, Romesh Ranganathan, Bill Bailey and Alan Davies compete, as Stephen Fry hosts an extended edition of the irreverent quiz show. **11.45** Film: Cosmopolis. (2012) David Cronenberg's drama, with Robert Pattinson and Juliette Binoche. **1.25** Film: Tim. (1979) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.45** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Home Game. (R) **10.25** The Voice Kids Final. (R) **12.10** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** Live Pre-Season Football: Arsenal v Chelsea (Kick-off 12.40pm). **2.55** Tipping Point. (R) **4.00** The Chase. (R) **5.00** Little Big Shots USA. **6.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.10** ITV News: Weather. **6.20** You've Been Framed! XXL. Harry Hill presents an extra-large edition of the show, revisiting some of the best mishaps, hijinks and side-splitting disasters captured on video by intrepid viewers. (R) **7.20** Catchphrase. The big-screen guessing game continues, as Stephen Mulhern invites three more contestants decipher the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues in an attempt to win £50,000. **8.00** Film: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey. (2012) Unassuming hobbit Bilbo Baggins is pulled out of his comfortable life when Gandalf the wizard volunteers him for a dangerous quest. He joins a party of dwarves who are on a mission to reclaim their lost homeland, which has been taken over by a dragon. When the group journeys into the Misty Mountains, Bilbo becomes separated from the dwarves and falls into a cave, where he finds himself confronted by Gollum and forced to play a riddle game. It is set in Middle-earth 60 years before the events of The Lord of the Rings and is the first part of Peter Jackson's fantasy adventure trilogy based on JRR Tolkien's novel, starring Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage, James Nesbitt, Ken Stott, Cate Blanchett, Ian Holm and Christopher Lee. **11.15** ITV News: Weather. **11.35** The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents. (R) **12.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.20** Cycling: Velothon Wales. **7.15** Motor Sport: British Rally Championship. **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.35** Frasier. (R) **9.05** Frasier. (R) **9.35** Frasier. (R) **10.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** Big House, Little House. **5.35** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** World Para Athletics Championships London 2017. Sophie Morgan, Arthur Williams and Lee McKenzie present coverage of the evening session on day nine of the Championships, which takes place at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Another 18 gold medals are set to be decided on what is the penultimate day of the games, with events including the men's T43, T44 and T47 200m, and the women's T37 and T38 100m. With analysis from Danny Crates and David Weir. **10.00** Film: Fast & Furious 6. (2013) A gang of fugitives reunites to take down a criminal syndicate that is aided by a friend they thought was dead. Action thriller sequel, with Vin Diesel and Dwayne Johnson. **12.30** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. Gordon Ramsay heads for West Babylon, New York, where he helps the owners of restaurant Classic American deal with their escalating debts and a lack of leadership in the kitchen. (R) **1.20** 60 Days in Jail. Another three new participants enter the programme. (R) **2.10** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Armstrong convinces Cindy to do a talk about powerful women in Liverpool, while Scott goes searching for his brother. **4.15** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. New series. The host helps three homeowners struggling to sell their properties in Cardiff, giving them £1,000 to make improvements to impress buyers Beth and Harriet. Previously seen on More4. **5.10** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. Kirstie Allsopp visits the Devon County Show. (R) **5.25** Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help two couples house-hunting in north-west London, including a pair who have already looked at almost 100 properties during their search. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.15** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.55** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **2.15** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **3.15** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.15** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.10** 5 News Weekend. **5.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **6.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Brian O'Shaughnessy and Graham Aldred's first case sees them in a Brighton health spa as they search for assets to seize in pursuit of a £20,000 debt. (R) **7.00** Blind Date. The dating game show concludes, as Paul O'Grady sets out to help two more singletons find romance. This time, he lends his assistance to Sophie, a flight attendant who hopes to find a cheeky chap who can love her in spite of her goofy, childlike ways. Also seeking a spark of attraction is Ted, a business development manager who is looking for a kind-hearted girlfriend who is also independent and ambitious. Plus, Paul catches up with last week's couples to find out how whether their dates were a success. Last in the series. **8.00** Named and Shamed: Greatest Celebrity Scandals. A rundown of the most salacious celebrity scandals to shock the worlds of pop, film, television and sport, including Cheryl's infamous bust-up in a nightclub toilet. **9.00** Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring more games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat, as well as reactions to the latest eviction. **10.00** 20 Moments That Shocked Comedy. Countdown of memorable comedy moments, including the launch of The Young Ones and Spitting Image, and the controversy surrounding Monty Python's Life of Brian. Last in the series. (R) **11.25** Funniest Fails, Fails & Flops. Comedy clip show featuring pranks gone wrong, unwise acts and failed attempts of misplaced ambition. (R) **11.50** Access. **12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Film: Under Ten Flags. (1960) **4.45** Access. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Forest, Field & Sky: Art Out of Nature **8.00** The Last Seabird Summer? **9.00** I Know Who You Are **11.25** Top of the Pops: 1984 **12.35** How to Be a World Music Star: Buena Vista, Bhundu Boys and Beyond **2.05** A to Z of World Music **3.35** Close **ITV2**  
**11.50** Film: Hulk (2003) **12.50** FYI Daily **12.55** Film: Hulk (2003) **2.35** The Voice Kids Final **4.20** Film: Babe (1995) **5.20** FYI Daily **5.25** Film: Babe (1995) **6.15** Film: The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) **7.15** FYI Daily **7.20** Film: The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.05** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **1.10** Film: Zack and Miri Make a Porno (2008) **2.10** FYI Daily **2.15** Film: Zack and Miri Make a Porno (2008) **ITV3**  
**1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Newbury, Market Rasen & Newmarket. **4.00** Kate: The Making of a Modern Queen **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Film: Mamma Mia! (2008) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10** Film: Mamma Mia! (2008) **9.10** Foyle's War **11.20** Law & Order: UK **12.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**  
**11.00** Tour de France Highlights **11.55** La Course: Tour de France Live. **12.45** Tour de France Live. **5.00** Better Late Than Never **6.00** Monster Carp **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10** Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **9.55** Film: Passenger 57 (1992) **10.55** FYI Daily **11.00** Film: Passenger 57 (1992) **11.40** Film: Death Wish 3 (1985) **12.45** FYI Daily **12.50** Film: Death Wish 3 (1985) **1.35** Tour de France Highlights **2.25** The Car Chasers **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**  
**11.30** The Goldbergs **1.00** Film: Space Chimps 2: Zartog Strikes Back (2010) **2.40** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Speed (1994) **11.20** Gogglebox **1.30** Tattoo Fixers **2.35** Rude Tube **3.25** Gogglebox **4.15** How I Met Your Mother **5.00** Rude(ish) Tube **Film4**  
**11.00** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **1.00** Grease (1978) **3.10** Carry On Cabby (1963) **4.55** Robots (2005) **6.40** Men in Black 3 (2012) **9.00** Darkman (1990) **10.50** The Counsellor (2013) **1.05** Sleepy Hollow (1999) **3.20** Close

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

FANTASTIC CARVERY 7 DAYS A WEEK

They always say never judge a book by its cover so we decided to check out The Park Lane Tavern in Colley Gate, and I have to say what was on offer in there was a total surprise.



It serves a carvery option 7 days a week from midday which consists of a choice of 4 meats, turkey, beef, pork and gammon and accompanied by stuffing, Yorkshire puddings and up to 12 vegetables, topped off with what they call their "secret recipe gravy" known also as what mother used to make! All this for just £4.99 for a lunchtime meal or £5.99 evenings and Saturdays and £7.99 for Sunday lunch represents extremely good value by today's standards.

They also don't forget their mini diners with 'Kids Eat Free' Monday to Saturday between 3pm and 6pm and during school holidays it's All Day Monday to Saturday.

But it doesn't stop their they also have a full main menu consisting of the classic pub favourites such as steaks, mixed grills, burgers and fish and chips, where the fish would not be out of place in any issue of 'Moby Dick'. To finish is there very tempting dessert menu, that's if you have room after the size of meals you get at The Park Lane Tavern.

Then if that's not enough choice for you you can also choose for the breakfast which is served Friday, Saturday and Sunday 08.30am until 11.00am. Their breakfast is a buffet style 'All you can eat' with enough choice to satisfy any diner from eggs 2 ways, bacon, sausage, mushrooms, baked beans, hash browns, black pudding, grilled fresh tomatoes, toast & fried bread. There's even



jam for your toast if you still not full after all that.

Half Price Monday

They also host special evenings like their 'Half Price Monday' which has proven to be very popular, and why not, already reasonably priced selected main meals off their main menu (which includes steaks) at half price served between 5pm and 8pm every Monday. Also their psychic evenings where for £15 you get a reading from a medium and a carvery, for those believers amongst you that must be a bargain.

You get a very friendly feeling when you enter The Park Lane Tavern and that's mostly down to the staff. Happy to see you and always keen to help. They have a lot of regular customers and it's been known for a customer's drink to be poured and waiting for them before they reach the bar, you don't see that at many places nowadays.

There are no airs or graces at The Park Lane Tavern, you get delicious food at great prices served by happy staff in a comfortable environment. No wonder this place has people returning time after time.



CHOICE



Matt Baker

**Wild Alaska Live (BBC1, 7pm)**  
New series. Liz Bonnin, Matt Baker and Steve Backshall present footage of animals gathering for the region's annual summer feast. The first programme focuses on salmon migrations, with underwater footage of the fish making their lengthy journey, as well as the bears that wait to feed on them. Plus, off the coast, walrus gather on a small island and scientists study the social groups of orcas.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Film: Oz the Great and Powerful. (2013) Fantasy adventure, starring James Franco. **5.00** Lifetime. **5.10** Songs of Praise. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.30** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** **Wild Alaska Live.** New series. Liz Bonnin, Matt Baker and Steve Backshall present footage of animals gathering for the region's summer feast, beginning with a look at bears and migrating salmon. **8.00** **Countryfile.** John Craven visits a conservation project for great bustards in Salisbury Plain, while Anita Rani meets contestants in the international young beekeepers' competition at Marlborough college and helps out with volunteers trying to stop one of England's most important chalk streams from drying up. Plus, artisanal flower growing in the Marlborough Downs and a farmer who keeps sheep for their milk. **9.00** **Poldark.** George plans to stand for parliament, but fails to make a good impression on a potential ally at Caroline's wedding reception and is forced to seek support elsewhere. Agatha prepares to celebrate her 100th birthday, and Hugh becomes infatuated with Demelza, although Ross dismisses the possibility. Morwenna's sister turns up at the Whitworth vicarage, and Sir Francis Bassett plans to challenge Falmouth's political monopoly in Truro, and invites Ross and Demelza to Tehidy so he can make a proposal. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** **Miranda Hart – My What I Call Live Show.** A filmed performance of stand-up comedy. (R) **11.30** **Film: Gambit.** (2012) A put-upon art expert plans revenge on a millionaire by tricking him into buying a fake Monet painting. Comedy remake, starring Colin Firth, Cameron Diaz and Alan Rickman. **12.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.55** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.15** A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.00** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** The Beachgrove Garden. (R) **9.15** Countryfile. (R) **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **12.15** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **1.00** Diving: World Championships. **2.30** Wanted Down Under. (R) **3.15** Natural World: Living with Baboons. (R) **4.15** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Live Swimming: World Championships. Helen Skelton presents coverage of day one from Danube Arena in Budapest, Hungary, which will include the finals of the women's and men's 400m freestyle disciplines. **7.00** **Inside the Factory.** Gregg Wallace and Cherry Healey visit factories to find out how household staples are made, while Ruth Goodman steps back in time to examine their history. (R) **8.00** **Golf: The Open.** Eilidh Barbour present highlights of the final day of the prestigious event, which took place at Royal Birkdale Golf Club in Southport. The winner of this year's tournament would not only get to lift the famous Claret Jug, but add their name to an illustrious list of champions that includes the likes of Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Tiger Woods and Seve Ballesteros, and should a British player emerge victorious they will have been the first to do so since Paul Lawrie in 1999. Commentary by Peter Allis, Ken Brown and Andrew Cotter. **10.00** **Film: Maps to the Stars.** (2014) Premiere. A disgraced woman is hired as an assistant to a fading Hollywood star obsessed with her dead mother. David Cronenberg's drama, starring Julianne Moore and Mia Wasikowska. **11.45** **Film: The Skin I Live In.** (2011) A plastic surgeon keeps a woman prisoner in his home, and uses her in experiments to create synthetic skin. Pedro Almodovar's thriller, starring Antonio Banderas. **1.35** Sign Zone: Countryfile. Ellie Harrison visits a Scottish island that is home to the largest puffin colony on Britain's east coast, and Sean Fletcher investigates the history of fruit growing in Fife. (R) **2.35** Holby City. Essie worries that she is not being a good foster parent to Parker, and a tricky patient diagnosis throws Morven straight in at the deep end on her first day back. (R) **3.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Ninjago: Rebooted. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Wild Animal Reunions. (R) **10.20** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.20** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.20** James Martin's French Adventure. (R) **12.50** ITV News: Weather. **12.55** Rebound. (R) **1.55** Tipping Point. (R) **2.55** Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) **3.25** **Film: Octopussy.** (1983) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore. **6.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.10** ITV News: Weather. **6.30** **The Chase Celebrity Special.** Paul Young, Jade Jones, Aljaz Skorjanc and Arthur Smith answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh. **7.30** **Film: Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.** (2005) Adolescent wizard Harry is unexpectedly chosen to represent Hogwarts School in a prestigious magical tournament, despite being legally too young to enter. Along with charming sixth-year student Cedric Diggory, Harry takes on the champions of two other magical academies visiting the school facing deadly monsters in a series of death-defying challenges. Meanwhile, the followers of the dreaded Lord Voldemort plot to restore their master to the land of the living. Fourth instalment of the fantasy saga, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Robbie Coltrane, Ralph Fiennes, Michael Gambon, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Brendan Gleeson and Robert Pattinson. **10.20** ITV News: Weather. **10.40** **Judge Rinder's Crime Stories.** The 2011 case of the murder of Sian O'Callaghan, who was killed by a taxi driver. Upon his arrest, the murderer offered to show police where a second body could be found. (R) **11.40** **Take Me Out.** A firefighter, a barber, a test driver and a gym instructor try to impress 30 single women and win a date. (R) **12.45** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.20** Last Man Standing. **6.45** Last Man Standing. **7.10** Last Man Standing. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Eat the Week. **1.30** **Film: Eragon.** (2006) Fantasy adventure, starring Ed Speleers. **3.35** The Restoration Man. (R) **4.35** Homes by the Sea. **5.35** Channel 4 News. **6.00** **World Para Athletics Championships London 2017.** Lee McKenzie, Ade Adepitan and Sophie Morgan present coverage of the evening session on the final day of the Championships, which takes place at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Despite being the last day of competition there are still 13 gold medals to be decided tonight, including the men's T54 5,000m, and the women's T44 200m and T53 800m. With analysis from Jonnie Peacock, Liam Malone, Danny Crates, Stef Reid and Millie Knight, and commentary by John Rawling, Rob Walker and Katharine Merry. **7.30** **UEFA Women's Euro 2017.** England v Spain (Kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the second match in Group D for both sides, which takes place at Rat Verlegh Stadion in Breda, Netherlands. These nations were also drawn in the same group as each other at the 2013 staging of the tournament, and on that occasion it was Spain who emerged triumphant, with the 3-2 victory helping them to qualify for the knockout stage, while England crashed out at the first hurdle. Presented by Clare Balding, with expert analysis from Ian Wright, Eniola Aluko and Kim Little, and commentary by Steve Bower and Lucy Ward. **10.00** **The Handmaid's Tale.** Offred is given a mission by the May Day rebels, to return to Jezebel and collect something they need. Janine takes drastic action after being forced to give up her baby. **11.05** **Film: Kingdom of Heaven.** (2005) A Knight blacksmith becomes a knight and swears to protect Jerusalem during the Crusades. Ridley Scott's historical epic, starring Orlando Bloom. **1.40** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **2.30** The Last Leg. (R) **3.25** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **3.55** Gillette World Sport.

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Pip Ahoy! **6.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.15** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.20** Mr Men. **6.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.40** Weesop. (R) **6.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.00** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.15** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.25** Oily the Little White Van. (R) **7.30** Oily the Little White Van. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.10** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.25** Wissper. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Little Princess. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.15** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.50** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.10** **Film: Little Nicky.** (2000) Comedy fantasy, starring Adam Sandler. **3.45** **Film: Legally Blonde.** (2001) **4.50** 5 News Update. **4.55** **Film: Legally Blonde.** (2001) **5.35** **Film: Ace Ventura: Pet Detective.** (1994) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey. **7.10** **Funnest Cutest Kittens Ever.** Iain Lee narrates a compilation of comical clips involving cats getting up to no good. **8.00** **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** **Whitney and Bobby: Addicted to Love.** Documentary drama exploring the story of Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown's relationship from 1990 through to her death in 2012. (R) **10.50** **Whitney Houston: Her Greatest Hits.** A celebration of the performer's most popular songs and music videos, from her first number one, 1985's Saving All My Love for You, to her 1992 version of I Will Always Love You. (R) **11.50** **OMG! My Midlife Plastic Crisis.** People using surgery to recapture their lost youth, including a man who feels his suits do not look right any more and a woman who wants to have Britain's largest fake breasts. **12.50** Access. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Kidnapping of Shergar. (R) **4.00** The Railways That Built Britain with Chris Tarrant. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** BBC Proms 2017 **8.50** Operation Crossbow **9.50** Storyville: Accidental Anarchist: Life without Government **10.50** After Life: The Strange Science of Decay **12.20** Dissected: The Incredible Human Foot **1.20** Britain's Whale Hunters: The Untold Story **2.20** Neil Diamond: Electric Prom **3.25** Close **ITV2**  
**11.15** Ninja Warrior UK **12.15** You've Been Framed! Gold Top 100 Sport Stars **1.20** **Film:** See Spot Run (2001) **2.20** FYI Daily **2.25** **Film:** See Spot Run (2001) **3.15** **Film:** Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20** **Film:** Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **4.55** **Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** **Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **7.00** **Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10** **Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Afternoon **11.20** Family Guy **12.40** American Dad! **1.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.05** The Vamps: The Hot Desk **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**  
**11.30** The Darling Buds of May **12.40** **Film:** Columbo: Agenda for Murder (1990) **2.45** Wycliffe **3.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.55** Foyle's War **8.00** Lewis **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.00** Wire in the Blood **1.55** Lewis **3.35** May the Best House Win **5.15** On the Buses **ITV4**  
**11.40** Monster Carp **12.45** **Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **1.45** FYI Daily **1.50** **Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **2.30** Tour de France Highlights **3.30** Tour de France Live. **7.00** Fierce **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.00** Tour de France Highlights **10.00** An Audience with Billy Connolly **11.10** **Film:** Crank: High Voltage (2009) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** **Film:** Crank: High Voltage (2009) **E4**  
**11.00** **Film:** Astro Boy (2009) **12.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **1.00** New Girl **2.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** **Film:** Fantastic Four (2005) **10.00** **Film:** Sinister (2012) **12.15** Rude Tube **1.20** 8 Out of 10 Cats **2.10** Gogglebox **3.10** Rude Tube **3.35** Holyoaks **Film4**  
**11.00** Earth vs the Flying Saucers (1956) **1.00** Outthrust Island (1995) **3.20** Johnny English (2003) **5.15** Titanic (1997) **9.00** The Ladykillers (2004) **11.05** Snake Eyes (1998) **1.10** Conspirators of Pleasure (1996) **3.00** Close

# Monday

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## FILM CHOICES

### MONDAY

#### The Killing Game, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A forensic sculptor whose daughter disappeared years previously receives a series of menacing phone calls from a man claiming to have killed her and announces his intention to strike again. She sets out to expose his identity before another girl dies, and maybe find out where her child is buried. Mystery based on Iris Johansen's novel, starring Laura Prepon and Ty Olsson. (2011)

### TUESDAY

#### A Daughter's Nightmare, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A grieving widow finds a shoulder to cry on in the form of a charming male nurse, but when her health suddenly begins to fail, her daughter embarks on a dangerous search for the truth about her illness. Drama, starring Emily Osment, Paul Johansson and Victoria Pratt. (2013)



The Sentinel, Friday, BBC1, 11.05pm

### WEDNESDAY

#### Who Killed My Husband?, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A widowed police officer embarks on a dangerous mission to generate enough income to pay for her daughter's hospital bills, causing her to question how far she is willing to go to save her child. Thriller, starring Andrea Bowen, Yasmeene Ball and Jim Thorburn. (2016)

### THURSDAY

#### A Woman Deceived, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A wealthy young widow marries the man who organised the event at which her husband was killed, and for a while her life seems perfect - until financial concerns begin to create tension. Thriller, starring Ashley Scott, Jay Pickett and Brian Krause. (2017)

### FRIDAY

#### The Sentinel, BBC1, 11.05pm

A secret service agent is convinced a member of a neo-Nazi militant group has infiltrated the White House. But his attempt to investigate comes to a halt when he is framed for murder and blackmailed over his affair with the president's wife. As he battles to clear his name, his former protegee is given the task of bringing him to justice. Spy thriller, starring Michael Douglas and Kiefer Sutherland. (2006)

## Duo are taking an emotional trip down memory lane

What are your memories of Diana, Princess of Wales?

Many people will always remember her as the fairytale royal bride arriving at St Paul's Cathedral for her marriage to Prince Charles; or the fun-loving princess dancing the night away with John Travolta at the White House.

Unfortunately, there were also sadder times, as she revealed in a TV interview that she had suffered depression, eating disorders and that "there were three of us in this marriage".

But for her two sons, HRH The Duke of Cambridge and HRH Prince Harry, the world's most photographed woman will always simply be their mischievous mother, whose love of life was infectious - perhaps best shown on their famous family outing to Thorpe Park.

"She was one of the naughtiest parents," Harry admits.

This intimate documentary made by the producers behind ITV's Our Queen at 90 is being shown to

commemorate the 20th year since Diana's tragic death.

It is built around contributions from William and Harry, both of whom talk openly about their mother and pay tribute to the many ways she has influenced their lives.

Back in April, the princes admitted that they failed to talk to each other enough about the death of their mother and that not doing so only made matters worse.

Speaking about the trauma they endured as children when Diana was killed in a car crash in Paris in 1997, the princes urged people to be more open with their emotions.

They acknowledged in a video with the Duchess of Cambridge, released as part of their campaign to tackle mental health in Britain, that they had bottled up their feelings about her death rather than sharing them.

However, judging by this documentary, the two princes are starting to become more comfortable talking about their mother.

Prince Harry says: "This is the first time that the two of us have ever spoken about her as a mother."

In one particularly poignant scene, they are shown leafing through a treasured photograph album put together by Diana and recall some of the most joyful and touching moments from their childhood.

Studying a photo of his mother holding him while pregnant with Harry, William says: "Believe it or not, you and I are both in this photograph, you're in the tummy!"

"She was very informal and really enjoyed the laughter and the fun. But she understood that there was a real life outside of the palace walls."

As well as William and Harry, there are interviews with other key figures in Diana's life, including close friends and family.

The programme also focuses on the princess's contributions to public life, and her extensive charity and humanitarian work in areas including landmines, child bereavement and homelessness.



Diana, Our Mother: Her Life and Legacy, Monday, ITV, 9pm

## BEST OF THE REST

knowhow or patience to take on a big project. In the first episode, the trio revive an unloved dining room using a Cuban theme, as Ant tries his hand at painting tiles, Robin makes a beaded chandelier and Clem learns how to craft her own knife.

### WEDNESDAY

#### The Sweet Makers: A Georgian Treat BBC2, 8pm

Four modern confectioners use original recipes, equipment and ingredients to recreate the extravagant displays of a Georgian confectionery shop. Guided by food historian Dr Annie Gray and social historian Emma Dabiri, the foursome travel to Bath to experience first-hand the life of confectioners in late 18th and early 19th-century England. The sweet-makers craft everything from towering jellies made from boiled calves feet, glasses of Parmesan ice cream, and a final course featuring an edible landscape.

### The Windsors

#### Channel 4, 10pm

Kate and Willis visit Charles's traditionalist new town, Poundbury in Dorset, where

Charles is unveiling another statue of himself. Pippa ponders whether she should leave her fiancé Johnny, after she learns that he has lost his fortune and has become a pizza delivery man. Meanwhile, Kate runs into old flame Gypsy Ricky, who reminds her they are still married following a traditional gypsy ritual. Will Camilla use this to destroy Kate in her latest plan to grab power?

Starring Harry Enfield, Louise Ford and Hugh Skinner.

### THURSDAY

#### Top of the Lake: China Girl BBC2, 9pm

Director Jane Campion's detective drama returns for a second series - and not only is The Handmaid's Tale star Elisabeth Moss reprising her role as Detective Robin Griffin, she's joined by Nicole Kidman and Gwendoline Christie of Game of Thrones fame. The series sees Robin return to Sydney after four years in New Zealand, ready to throw herself

into her work, but when a suitcase containing the body of a young woman washes up on Bondi Beach, the cop is faced with an investigation that will lead closer to home than she could have imagined. That's because Robin is also privately searching for the daughter she gave up for adoption, the now 17-year-old Mary (Alice Englert), who is as odds with adoptive mum Julia (Kidman) - and in thrall to an older boyfriend with links to a brothel where a sex worker has gone missing.

### FRIDAY

#### Big Brother: Live Final Channel 5, 9pm

The 18th series of the reality TV favourite (although there are new pretenders to the throne - Love Island, we're looking at you) reaches its climax tonight as the remaining few housemates deemed most popular with voting viewers over the past eight weeks find out who among them will emerge the victor. Emma Willis is, of course, on hand to reveal the result, evicting the finalists one by one (and viewing their best bits), before finally chatting to the winner about their experience in the house. Then it's over to Rylan for a further set of interviews in Bit on the Side. And if you're wondering what to do with your evening's now it's all over, worry not - the Celeb version will be back in a week.



Top of the Lake: China Girl, Thursday, BBC2, 9pm

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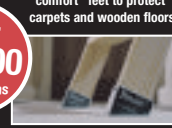
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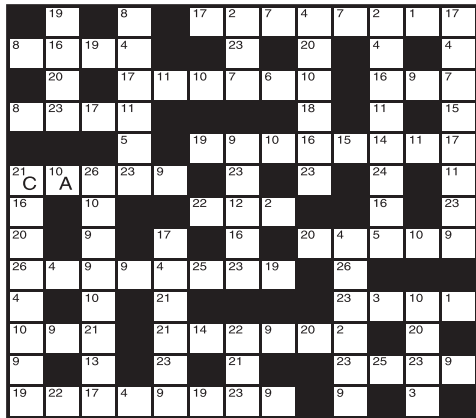


## BRAIN GYM

No.439

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
H	S	Y	A	B	D	T	U	G	X	K	M	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Q	O	P	L	C	R	E	J	I	F	W	V	N

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

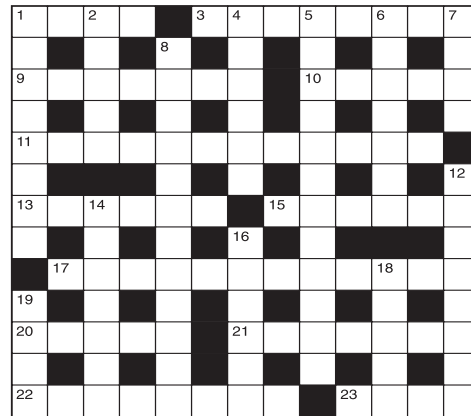
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

1. See 23 Across
3. Capt Dale could be appeased (8)
9. Small spot allowed to fall first (7)
10. Drop down (5)
11. Spiteful observations about a household pet? (5,7)
13. The end of the calibration should be zero (6)
15. Stick in this position after short notice (6)
17. One who helps you to fill up the form (12)
20. Giving the confection a frosty look! (5)
21. Medical case willing to be tolerant (7)
22. Bestow ecclesiastical honour on, in case there's a Reformation! (8)
- 23 & 1Ac. Bring up the majority right at the back (8)

## Down

1. It's handled by an expert in physics (8)
2. Strong porter showing dauntlessness (5)
4. Badly rattle the one mentioned second (6)
5. Instructions written on the tablets! (12)
6. Freight vehicle with the French bed (7)
7. An obligation for tax (4)
8. Be instrumental in using the manual (4,3,5)
12. Saw a tree destroyed by the briny (3,5)
14. Endlessly continue strange sanctifying grace (7)
16. Bolts together (6)
18. Lord or vassal for example discovered in falsehood (5)
19. The last character incorporated a non-corrosive element (4)



## Quick Clues:

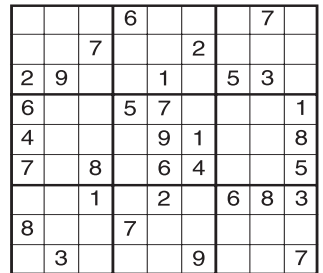
## Across

1. Fury (4)
3. Composition (8)
9. Frugal (7)
10. Ensnare (5)
11. Telling wrongly (12)
13. Inform (6)
15. Assert (6)
17. Accompaniment (12)
20. Start (5)
21. Monkshood (7)
22. Tied up (8)
23. Warmth (4)

## Down

1. Renewing (8)
2. Tumbler (5)
4. Area (6)
5. Mass (12)
6. Concentrated (7)
7. Reverberate (4)
8. Import (12)
12. Passionate (8)
14. Cogitation (7)
16. Transfix (6)
18. Ingenious (5)
19. Aid (4)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

6	4	3	5	2	8	1	9	7
9	7	1	6	3	4	2	5	8
5	2	8	9	7	1	4	6	3
3	1	9	2	5	6	8	7	4
4	8	5	7	1	3	6	2	9
7	6	2	4	8	9	3	1	5
2	3	4	1	9	5	7	8	6
8	5	7	3	6	2	4	1	9
1	9	6	8	4	7	5	3	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Prophet; 7 Strut; 9 Avoid; 10 Love-all; 12 Under orders; 14 Very well off; 18 Palaver; 19 Drill; 21 Stole; 22 Reserve. Down: 1 Grave; 2 Option; 3 Let; 4 Attend; 5 Cutlery; 8 Monocle; 11 Deleted; 13 Penalty; 15 Yearly; 16 Forger; 17 Glove; 20 Beg. QUICK - Across: 6 Excerpt; 7 Mixer; 9 Total; 10 Congeal; 12 Indifferent; 14 Fundamental; 18 Ecstasy; 19 Scare; 21 Cease; 22 Prosper. Down: 1 Extol; 2 Retain; 3 Ape; 4 Finger; 5 Remains; 8 Confine; 11 Dismiss; 13 Quicken; 15 Detest; 16 Accost; 17 Greed; 20 Dry.

## Quiz

1. Of whom was the Colossus of Rhodes a statue?
2. Which sport's two forms are the snatch and the clean and jerk?
3. Which element accounts for 70 per cent of the sun?
4. By what familiar name is Alexandra Legge-Bourke known?
5. What is the capital of North Korea?
6. What do the letters VHF stand for?
7. In which age was the Minoan civilization?
8. Who wrote several novels featuring the poet Enderby?
9. As governor of which prison was John Marriott sacked in January 1995?
10. What name did Portuguese dancer Maria do Carmo Miranda da Cunha assume?

## Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 A rodent; 2 Owls; 3 Edward Heath; 4 Mississippi; 5 Asunción; 6 Impeachment; 7 William Burroughs; 8 Spain and Portugal; 9 Cod; 10 Daedalus.  
Niner: PERVADING

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

9186438  
915354  
1278

gives a ghost,  
gives a second ghost,  
gives ghostly.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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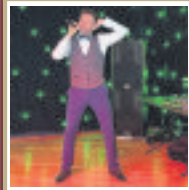
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**THURSDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST**  
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**FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**  
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**SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**  
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## THE KNIGHTS QUEST



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SAT 22/07/17  
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SUN 23/07/17  
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# Green for go at Second City cafe

It can often be a real struggle to find a place to unwind and relax when out and about in a busy city centre on a Saturday afternoon. Birmingham always has plenty going with its abundance of shops, restaurants and bars.

So when you stumble across a lovely little venue that helps to remove all the stresses and strains of city life, it's worth pointing out.

The Green Room café is the closest bar and restaurant to the Birmingham Hippodrome. Sitting practically on the doorstep of the second city's top theatre, in The Arcadian, it prides itself on being the perfect place to grab a pre-theatre meal, relax with some interval or post-theatre drinks – or, for people like us, it caters for those who simply fancy a break and something nice to eat.

It was my brother Tom's pre-birthday treat so along with his fiancée, Claire, and my two-year-old daughter, Annabelle, we decided to try somewhere that looked welcoming and not overly fancy. There was just something very friendly about the atmosphere here.

We decided to sit outside in the lovely courtyard-style area. However, in good old British style, the heavens soon opened so we were forced to move indoors. The layout is open plan, with tables and chairs set out for couples, families and large groups.

The food is pretty standard fare but as we found out it's also very tasty – and there's plenty of it.

As we were all sharing two starters, we decided on the marinated olives, homemade hummus and selection of breads, and deep-fried squid with a crispy chilli coating served with alioli dip. The platter came with plenty of warm pittas, and a tomato-based hummus,

The Green Room, close to Birmingham Hippodrome



which contained just enough garlic. The dish was plenty for us to all share and, when mixed with the tangy olives, the combined flavours were a delight. But the showstopper for me was the calamari.

Claire and Tom had just returned from a holiday in Portugal – and being lovers of fried squid, both agreed this was better than anything they'd eaten aboard. Quite a compliment seeing as they'd been staying in a fishing village by the sea. Again, there was a decent portion and when the hot fish was dunked in the alioli, we wished there was more. After Annabelle's homemade

Veggie delight – served with chips and coleslaw



Fish fingers – the crispy calamari



macaroni cheese (with an extra sausage) had been agreed on, we ordered our own mains. I opted for the 'quiche of the day', which turned out to be broccoli and stilton and served with a salad and rustic chips – chunky, soft on the inside and crispy out, they were delicious, and went really well with the light and fluffy quiche, which also had a delightfully crumbly base.

My brother fancied the falafel burger from the specials board and Claire the homemade vegetarian burger, which came with lettuce, beef tomato and relish – as well as chips, of course. Both said their burgers were

very tasty but particularly praised the relish with its tangy taste. Tom thought there was perhaps too much mint in his burger but the plates were empty at the end – even Annabelle enjoyed trying some of it.

As for her children's dish, it was a very large portion for her, so we all dug in. The mac and cheese was simple, but very nice. It also came with a soft drink.

There were plenty of classic desserts to choose from as well as a cream tea for two with tea or filter coffee. Next time you are in the second city, why not go Green? James Driver-Fisher

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## Three-bedroom family property offers delightful parkland views and has parking space to the front

**A stunning three-bedroomed property overlooking parkland in Central Dudley in The Parade, this home has modern and airy decor throughout.**

Coming with a secluded private rear garden, it is for sale through Trinity Property at £199,995 with no chain.

It has off-road parking to the front.

The property's accommodation briefly comprises a large through

**DUDLEY**  
**£199,995**

lounge, a spacious open plan dining area with a fitted kitchen off, a utility room with a downstairs WC, three good-sized bedrooms (with an orthopaedic water bed available to purchase), a fitted wardrobe in the main bedroom, a house bathroom with a bath, a WC and a separate shower with a "monsoon" mixer

shower.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this highly appealing property.

**For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the ideal next home for you, please contact the selling estate agents, Trinity Property, at their local branch office on 01384 213 395 or visit [www.trinityproperty.net](http://www.trinityproperty.net)**



## Detached house is deceptively spacious

**This deceptively spacious four-bedroomed detached property in Brookfield Way, Tipton, is ideally located for transport routes and amenities.**

This attractive home is built to a modern design and it is for sale through Goodchilds at offers over £145,000.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a lounge, dining room, kitchen, full width conservatory, four bedrooms,

**TIPTON**  
**£145,000**

family bathroom, two en-suites, an enclosed rear garden and generous off-road parking.

Decorated tastefully throughout, this property really is a must-view for any growing family looking for a little more space, said a spokesman for the selling agents.

In more detail, to the front of the property is a good sized block paved driveway and a stepped pathway up to the front entrance door.

The selling agents are expecting the sale of this property to generate a lot of interest.

**For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the ideal home for you, contact Goodchilds on 0844 800 9404 or visit [www.goodchilds-uk.com](http://www.goodchilds-uk.com)**

### Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



**NEW**

**CRADLEY HEATH, Bishops Walk£1,350 pcm+Fees**  
An unfurnished modern detached house in this very desirable location comprising of: 5 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, study, fitted kitchen/diner, utility, master bedroom with en suite, house bathroom, driveway, 2 garages, one converted into office/playroom, front & rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing, EPC: TBC



**NEW**

**HALESOWEN, Whittingham Road£850 pcm+Fees**  
Large 3 bedroom semi-detached house with a perfect location for Earls & Windsor High School & Halesowen College. Entrance hallway, 20ft lounge with feature fireplace, further study/bedroom 4, downstairs w.c., 3 good sized bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, lovely rear garden with shed & summer house, garage & driveway parking for several cars. EPC: TBC



**CRADLEY HEATH/OLD HILL, Station Road£850 pcm+Fees**  
Modern 4 bedroom detached house in this very convenient location benefiting from an en-suite master bedroom • 3 double bedrooms, good size reception room with patio doors leading to rear garden, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, downstairs w.c., upstairs family bathroom, gas central heating & double glazed throughout. EPC: C



**NEW**

**HALESOWEN, Church Road£750 pcm+Fees**  
Detached House in popular residential location with shops, schools and amenities within easy reach. Briefly comprises of: Entrance hallway, lounge, study/bedroom 5, kitchen, downstairs shower room, 4 good size bedrooms, house bathroom with separate wc, driveway for 3 cars, rear garden, gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: TBC



**NEW**

**QUINTON, Grayswood Park Road£725 pcm+Fees**  
Characterful home with good sized reception rooms. An unfurnished semi detached house in this very popular residential area. Comprising of: 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, separate w.c., gas central heating, front & rear gardens, garage & driveway parking. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN/COLLEY GATE, Ashbourne Ridge£725 pcm+Fees**  
A modern three storey town house. The property which is gas centrally heated, has had electric solar panels installed, resulting in substantially lower electricity bills. The accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, utility room, lounge / diner, breakfast kitchen, 3 bedrooms, (2 with en-suites) a family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, parking and an integral garage. EPC: TBC



**NEW**

**WORDSLEY, Ashwood Avenue£725 pcm+Fees**  
In the process of being totally refurbished is this lovely 3 bedroom semi-detached house, close to schools and amenities. The accommodation comprises: entrance hallway, good size lounge, kitchen with appliances, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower over, front & rear gardens & driveway for 2/3 cars. EPC: G



**NEW**

**BRIERLEY HILL, Monkswell Close£625 pcm+Fees**  
Mid terraced 2 bedroom family home in this quiet location having spacious lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, 2 good size bedrooms, private rear garden & garage & driveway. EPC: C



**NEW**

**HALESOWEN, Wroxley House£625 pcm+Fees**  
Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb luxury ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Linnet Close £625 pcm+Fees**  
Unfurnished semi detached house set in popular cul-de-sac location close to Halesowen Town Centre. This lovely property features 2 bedrooms, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, garage and driveway parking, rear garden. EPC: D



**LET**

**ROWLEY REGIS, Lightfields Walk£600 pcm+Fees**  
A newly decorated 3 bedroom modern end terrace house with new carpets throughout. Entrance hallway, large lounge with laminate flooring, fitted kitchen with a new cooker, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath. Eco electric radiators, pleasant rear garden with sheds & parking area, brand new double glazing. A must see property!! EPC: TBC



**NETHERTON, Round Street£525 pcm+Fees**  
Beautifully presented and not to be missed. Set within a popular residential area, this unfurnished semi detached house comprises of a modern living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower and a conservatory. Benefits also include gas central heating, rear garden, driveway for 2 cars. EPC: D LANDLORD REQUIRES 12 MONTHS DEPOSIT AND A FAMILY MEMBER TO BE A GUARANTOR



**QUARRY BANK, New Street£525 pcm+Fees**  
A unique detached bungalow within walking distance of Quarry Bank High Street and a stones throw from Merry Hill Shopping Centre. This 1 bed property features: hallway, lounge with feature fireplace and patio doors leading to garden, double bedroom, bathroom with separate shower. The bungalow also benefits from long driveway, gas central heating and double glazed. EPC: D



**NEW**

**HALESOWEN, Stourbridge Road£495 pcm+Fees**  
A lovely ground floor flat that has been fully re-furnished to a very high standard. Within walking distance of Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring large living room, kitchen with oven/hob, 1 double bedroom, beautiful shower room, gas central heating, double glazing, on road parking. EPC: TBC



**NEW**

**DUDLEY, Gamage Street £495 pcm+Fees**  
Ideal for Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley Town Centre and transport links. This end terrace 2 bedroom property has been refurbished with new carpets upstairs, new Worcester combi boiler and integrated oven. This home features an entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, upstairs bathroom with shower, rear garden with patio area, on road parking. EPC: D



**NEW**

**NETHERTON, Moussewell Lane£475 pcm+Fees**  
A modern style furnished ground floor apartment in superbly convenient location in a quiet cul-de-sac featuring: entrance hallway, lounge with electric fire, fitted kitchen with appliances, 1 double bedroom, bathroom suite with shower, rear access to private courtyard, driveway for 2 cars, gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH/OLD HILL, King Street£450 pcm+Fees**  
Located in the heart of Old Hill. Ideally situated for local shops, buses and train links is this unfurnished 1st floor modern apartment which comprises of 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with a small fridge and freezer, spacious lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C



**CRADLEY HEATH/OLD HILL, Elbow Street£450 pcm+Fees**  
Unfurnished 2nd floor flat in a popular area which is ideal for shops, buses and Old Hill Train Station. Featuring 1 double bedroom, electric storage heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen with small fridge and washing machine, bathroom with shower, communal garden, allocated parking. EPC: B



**OLDBURY, Causeway Green Road£450 pcm+Fees**  
Deceptively large and spacious. A split level apartment above local shops, within walking distance to bus links for Langley and Oldbury and close to J2 of the M5 comprises gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear, with the added bonus of a porch, unfurnished. EPC: D



**TIPTON, Avern Close £425 pcm+Fees**  
Modern top floor apartment in this quiet popular location. Entrance hallway leading to lounge, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, 1 double bedroom, shower room, electric storage heating, allocated parking space, communal gardens. EPC: TBC



**LYE/STOURBRIDGE, Eagle House£285 pcm+Fees**  
A 1st floor studio apartment in the centre of Lye Town, also close for Lye Train Station. Featuring a combined lounge/bedroom, fitted kitchen with electric cooker, shower room, electric heater, shared laundry room, parking at rear, private communal area with seating. EPC: E



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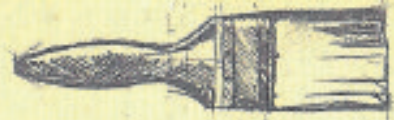
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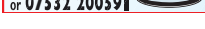
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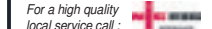
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- Gutters Cleaned From £15
- Small Repairs From £15
- Pointing Work From £15
- SPECIAL OFFERS**  
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters,  
New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt  
and Garage Roofs.
- Rubberised flat roofing
- Flat roof specialist
- Insurance work undertaken
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- FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE**

**WILL BEAT ANY  
GENUINE QUOTE**



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**Mobile: 07584 081228**

### ELITE PLASTICS

• Fascias • Sofits • Dry Verge  
• Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair  
Premium Products Expertly Fitted  
With Full Manufacture Guarantee.

**For A Free Quote call**

**01384 468831 / 07985 575865**

www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk

## Tiling

### I.C.A. TILING SERVICES

Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.

Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate,  
marble and all natural stone.

**FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE**

Quality workmanship at competitive prices.

Fully insured. Portfolio available.

**For a free quote call Ian on**

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## Wrought Iron

### HOLT ORNAMENTAL IRONWORK

Gates, Railings, Stairways,  
Garden Balconies.

**07966 526528**

www.holtornamentalironwork.co.uk



### Local Specialists

Our Specialist Section  
offers you a wide range  
of local businesses  
and tradesman to deal  
with your needs and  
requirements.

## Window Specialists

### Full Window Wizard Services Available



- Misted Units Replaced
- Broken Hinges
- Door Adjustment
- New Locks Installed

**Call for  
further details  
0121 421 7001**



### Local Specialists

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offers you a wide range  
of local businesses  
and tradesman to deal  
with your needs and  
requirements.

**To advertise your business and reach more than 46,000 potential customers...**

**1**

Call us on...  
**01902 319590**

**2**

E-mail us at...  
**mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk**

**3**

Post to...  
**Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Country  
House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG**



# ClassifiedAds

Buy Local, Sell Local

## funeral directors

**N.E.DOWNING**  
(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent  
family run  
Funeral Directors  
24 hour service  
Halesowen  
0121 422 2794

www.nedowning.co.uk

## monumental masons

**HALESTONE**  
**MEMORIALS**

Modern and traditional memorials

Ring for FREE brochure  
0121 550 4235

Or visit our showroom at  
**Somers Road,**  
**Halesowen B62 8EN**

www.halestonememorials.co.uk

1

## Family

## baby needs

**OYSTER MAX PRAM** Also Car-  
rycot-still boxed, two bags, raincov-  
ers and umbrella, as new, black,  
£150. 01902 630639.

## elderly & disabled

**AQUAJJOY BATHLIFT**, battery  
operated, with swivel seat, used  
once, £250 o.n.o. 01902 783167.

**MOBILITY SCOOTER** 4 wheels,  
lights, shopping bag, good condi-  
tion. Can deliver. Bargain. £325.  
0121 440 2867/07804 239956

**WREKIN STAIRLIFTS** recondi-  
tioned lifts from £799. New avail-  
able. 01952 405377/07897 273617

2

## Leisure Time

## camping equipment

**SUPER BARGAIN!**

**PENNINE PULLMAN 535**  
**FOLDING CAMPING**  
**TRAILER TENT**  
Immaculate condition.  
Full size as new awning.  
Water carriers.  
Good brakes.  
As new tyres.  
Full skirts all round.  
£2,800 ono.  
01902 337990.

**SUPER BARGAIN!**

## caravans / motorhomes

**A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW**  
35x12 caravans from £10,000. Gym  
Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further?  
www.bcpark.co.uk 01584823433

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your ad-  
vertisement today? We would recom-  
mend advertisers that it is their re-  
sponsibility to inform the pub-  
lishers of any mistakes or inac-  
curacies on the first day of publica-  
tion.

**ABBEY LINCOLN**  
Two berth, good condition,  
second owner from new,  
expensive accessories, all  
ready to go  
£2,000.  
01902 679431

## We Want Your Motorhome

Finance Cleared  
Fast Secure Payment  
Top Prices Paid  
Please Call  
AEG on 01384 848439 or  
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448  
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

## SUPER BARGAIN

**FORD FREDA CAMPERVAN**  
**FOR SALE**

Same as Mazda Bongo,  
N reg, diesel,  
full MOT, elevating roof,  
tow bar,  
Excellent condition.  
£4,000 ono.  
07824 632328.  
01902 791340.

**LUXURY LODGE FOR SALE!** Sited  
on 4\* park near Aberystwyth. Inc full  
decking, from £49,995. Payment  
options available. Deposits from  
10% (T&C's). Paul 07960 944721.

**STATIC CARAVAN**  
**NEAR WELSHPOOL**  
Large decking, Driveway.  
Outside lights, DG, 6-berth.  
2 Beds, Lake, Swimming pool.  
Tennis court, Games room.  
£10,995 ono.  
07838 579568.

**STATIC CARAVAN**  
**35FT X 12FT**  
2 bedroom, overlooking the  
River Severn, with steam  
railway on site, good fishing,  
pub on site.

Residential or holiday, 52 week  
site.

£24,000.  
Telephone 07976 579848.

**SWIFT FAIRWAY 460**  
Two berth caravan, 2008, motor  
mover, awning, new tyres,  
microwave.  
Very good condition.  
£5,250.  
01384 443276.

**TALBOT EXPRESS MOTORHOME**  
6 months MOT, 32mpg, 68k miles,  
petrol, 2 litre, 4 berth, cooker,  
fridge. £5,950 ono. 0121 4217828.



**WILLERBY DENBIGH 2007**

30 x 10ft, static caravan on  
small, peaceful owner only park  
in rural Mid Wales.

Large lounge/diner, wrap  
around kitchen, 2 bedrooms,  
shower/toilet. Outstanding  
views. Ideal mature couple.

£7,775.  
01591 610625.

## caravans wanted

**WANTED**  
**ALL CARAVANS**  
Any age or condition  
Also motorhomes wanted.  
**TOP PRICES PAID**  
Immediate collection.  
**CALL THOMAS**  
**07717 280 996**  
www.tscarcavansandmotorhomes.co.uk

## jumble sales / fetes

**BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR**  
Sunday, 23rd July  
Next Sale: 13th August  
**KINVER COMMUNITY**  
**CENTRE**  
10.30am - 4pm  
Tel: 01384 894464

## music shop

**WANTED YAMAHA** Tyros key-  
board, number 1 or 2, up to £250 in  
good condition. 01902 497824.

## sports & leisure

**MINT CONDITION**  
**COMPLETE BIRDING**  
**OUTFIT**  
**RARE OPPORTUNITY TO**  
**PURCHASE TOP NOTCH**  
**OPTICS.**

Leica apo 77 angled scope  
with wide field eyepiece + case  
+ manfrotto tripod. + Leica 8 x  
20 trinovid binoculars with case.  
all with boxes + receipts.

A must have package for any  
serious observer.

£750

Call for further details  
07843 177294.

## holidays

## self catering holidays

**BURNHAM-ON-SEA**

Self Catering Holiday  
Apartments  
Disabled Facilities  
Pet Friendly  
**01278 794111**  
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

## travel abroad

**READERS ARE REMINDED**  
to check with any Advertisers  
that their holiday costs are fully  
covered by a recognised bonding or  
insurance scheme.

## what's on

## markets

**STOURBRIDGE**  
**CAR BOOT**  
At Stourbridge  
Rugby Club  
Open every Wednesday  
from 24th May  
**07957 399964**

## 3 Home & Services

## furniture

**BED SETTEE**, excellent condition,  
brown, £50.  
01902 783167.

**BROWN LEATHER** 2 seater and 3  
seater sofa, both reclining, very  
good condition, £200.  
07947 518846.

**DURESTA THREE PIECE SUITE**,  
top quality, immaculate, must be  
seen, offers invited.  
01902 762073. Evenings only.

**TWO CHAIRS** plus 2 seater settee,  
recliner chair, red dralon, excellent  
condition, £200 ono.  
01902 624705.

## items wanted

**A Genuine Lady Buyer!**  
Cash paid £300+ per ounce for 9 car-  
at scrap gold. Any amount collected!  
Sovereigns £200+ each, Watches,  
Coins, Medals & more  
Highly Recommended!  
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

## A BEST CASH PRICE



**FOR ALL RAILWAY**  
**COLLECTIONS**

Any gauge or age  
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/  
Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/  
any live steam. Also Die Cast,  
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.  
01384 836219/07891 713547  
thetrainmaster67@  
hotmail.com



**A BEST CASH PRICE PAID**  
**FOR DIE CAST CARS /**  
**LORRIES / TOY SOLDIERS**

Air fix, Britains, Corgi, Dinky,  
Spot on, Tri-ang.  
Best prices paid.  
Any condition.  
Collections bought.  
Telephone 01922 327897  
or 07976 691563.

**AUTO MEMORABILIA**  
**WANTED**  
**SHELL, ESSO,**  
**CASTROL ETC**  
**ALSO**  
**GARAGE CLEARANCES**

Old Enamel Signs,  
Petrol Cans,  
Old Jugs,  
Classic Car Parts,  
Bikes and Motorbikes.  
Anything old.  
**\*\* TOP PRICES PAID \*\***  
01384 836219/07891 713547

**READERS ARE ADVISED**  
to carefully consider all of their options  
before agreeing to the sale of any  
of their items.

**SPECTRUM GAMES** Wanted, plus  
any old Crash magazines wanted,  
also any old your Sinclair maga-  
zines. 01902 829218.

## items for sale

## ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

That the Business Advertisers  
(Disclosure) Order of  
1977 requires that advertise-  
ments must clearly differentiate  
between Private and Trade.

**IKEA MATTRESS**  
Hyllestad pocket spring  
mattress, standard double  
medium.  
Ikea 25 year guarantee, under  
3 months old, perfect condition.  
Quick sale £150.  
07540 197746.

## loans

**READERS ARE REMINDED**  
that they may require profes-  
sional advice before entering into  
obligations.

## specialists at your service

## alarms/security

**PREMIER**  
**ALARMS**  
Supplied and Fitted £249  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!  
**Call: 0121 601 9791**

## aerials

**AA DIGITAL**  
**AERIALS**  
**SATELLITE & CCTV**  
**AERIALS FITTED FROM £75**  
Work Guaranteed  
01902 858191  
01384 429166  
01543 439095  
01922 716029  
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VISA  
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**THANK YOU  
CLASSIFIEDS!**

Steve -  
AA Digital Aerials

For great business  
results call  
**01902 319 191**

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Brought to you by **Express & Star**

## building services

**DAVIES & SON BUILDERS**  
Over 35 years exp  
All aspects of building work  
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,  
driveways & landscaping.  
Discounts offered.  
**01902 579592 / 07837 994465**

**QUALITY DOORS AND HARD-**  
**WOOD FLOORING** @ low prices.  
Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5428.

## fencing



**THANK YOU  
CLASSIFIEDS!**

**THANK YOU  
CLASSIFIEDS!**

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

**PORTWAY**  
**FENCING**  
**SPECIAL OFFER**  
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts,  
gravel boards. **£695**  
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.  
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656  
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
Sat 8am - 12noon  
83 Portway Rd, Walsall  
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

## gardening services

**GARDENS TIDIED** from £5 per  
garden. 25 years experience. Call  
01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

## gas fitting

**READERS ARE ADVISED**  
To check that anyone  
carrying out any Gas work  
is Gas Safe Registered.  
It is an offence under the Gas  
Safety (Installation and Use)  
Regulations 1998 to carry out  
gas work in the UK without  
being on the Gas Safe Register.

## house clearances

**A ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid  
for house clearances and bereave-  
ments. Also removals undertaken.  
07852 172641 / 07710 360327

## plastering

**M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING**  
Services. Home/Garden Improve-  
ments. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

**STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE**  
Clean and Reliable. All Work  
Undertaken. All Areas. Call  
0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

## removals

**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**  
12 years experience.  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.  
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.  
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:  
**07771 727119**

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your  
Removal needs. 07429 453209/  
01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

## roofing

**MG ROOFING** Flat roofs, tiling, roof  
repairs, fascias and gutters. Call  
01902 236989 / 07580 465449.

## rubbish removal

**LETS TALK RUBBISH** No Skips  
Needed. Load/Remove any Waste,  
House Clearance. 07969 626362

## 4 Pets & Animals

## pets corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when  
purchasing a puppy there are  
some simple guidelines you can  
follow to ensure that you are not  
purchasing from a Puppy  
Farmer:  
1. Try to ensure you visit the  
puppy whilst it is still with it's  
Mother.  
2. Do not arrange to collect a  
puppy from any other location  
than that of the breeder.  
3. Ensure that you are given any  
KC documentation, if pedigree.  
Whilst Midland News  
Association publications take  
great care to avoid publication  
of advertisements from Puppy  
Farmers we cannot accept any  
liability should readers  
purchase from this kind of  
establishment.

**CAVALIERS ALSO** Cavaoos  
puppies, ready now, from £850.  
07867 530504 (Bridgnorth).

**POND FISH** X 3 Very large, £100  
each. Wolverhampton 07880  
982193.

**ROSEDEEN RESCUE**  
**CENTRE**  
1, Radley Road, Rushall,  
Walsall. WS4 1LN.  
01922 627013.  
Open Monday to Saturday  
11am - 5pm.  
Sundays - Bank Holidays  
11am - 4pm.  
Takes in relinquished dogs  
from owners, all areas (if they  
are vet checked up to date with  
jabs.)  
Donations of dog food, toys,  
bedding and vet bills always  
appreciated.

## equestrian corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to  
check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies  
have the required Passport infor-  
mation.

## guns & dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that  
they meet all necessary legal  
requirements for owning and using  
guns.

## 5 Business & Farming

## livestock / poultry

**FREE TO A GOOD HOME** 5 fancy  
Banthams, various, feed hopper,  
drinking fountain, food. 01922  
647101 or 07398 670451.

## 7 Jobs

## courses

**BIRMINGHAM:** 25-26 SEPT. & 30 NOV-1 DEC.  
also **STOKE ON TRENT:** 2-3 SEPT. and **TELFORD:** 23-24 OCT.

## Learn how to take blood TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST

awarding a Nationally Recognised  
Certificate in Phlebotomy

- Two day course
- First step onto Allied  
Healthcare Career Path
- Accredited - Advanced
- No previous experience  
needed
- Recognised Qualification

For more info. or to book online:  
**www.geopace.com**  
o.cn  
ACCREDITED

HIGH DEMAND IN: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community

## full time - general

**PHIL C PADDOCK**  
**BUTCHERS**  
require  
**FULL TIME**  
**BUTCHER/**  
**CATERING BUTCHER**  
to work in a butchers in Hagley.  
Contact Phil on 01562 882211  
or after 6.30pm 0121 550 6443

## MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY JOBSDAY

Every Thursday our special jobs  
section is packed with the week's  
latest vacancies.  
Make sure you get your copy - it might  
be just what you've been waiting for.

**jobs.expressandstar.com**  
REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

## 6 Property

## overseas property

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek  
independent legal advice before  
entering into any financial commit-  
ments.



## properties wanted

## FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY™

- Repossessions stopped
- Houses bought in any condition
- Legal fees paid
- Probate Estates Welcome
- Mortgages / Loans Cleared

CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!

**FREEPHONE 0800 121 6007**
**OAKWOOD HOMEBUYERS**

Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.

www.oakwood-homebuyers.com

## WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME! FAST 4 Your House CASH

You agree the price, we buy the house...

- NO AGENTS FEES
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS
- ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

**0800 999 999 6**  
**01 384 500 500**

www.black-countryhomes.co.uk \* subject to terms

## Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

## Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154

Walsall &amp; Cannock area: Call 01922 432049

Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901

www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

## THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising! Our directory page on expressandstar.com has generated extra activity on our website."

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

**Classified Ads**  
 Brought to you by Express & Star

 For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

### accommodation to let

### mobile homes

## NOTICE TO READERS

It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

## NOTICE TO READERS

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

**NETHERTON AREA** 3 bed house, DSS welcome, 30 plus, deposit required. 07780 704435.

**PENN ONE** bed self contained flat, CH, DG, DSS, over 35's. £80pw. No deposit. 07900 156313.

**SMART SINGLE ROOMS** in Shared house, Netherton. £85 p.w. inc. bills. No DSS. 2 weeks deposit. 07940 116130.

### FULLY RESIDENTIAL CHALET/BUNGALOW

36 x 20

Country location, very private with lounge, kitchen / diner, hall, 3 bedrooms, double glazed, oil fired central heating, garden.

Telephone

07535 905818

**8**

## Motoring

cars under £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

### BARGAIN

**RENAULT CLIO CAMPUS**  
 07 reg.  
 3 door.  
 33,000 miles.  
 12 months MoT.  
 Central locking.  
 Air con. ABS brakes.  
 PAS. E/W.  
**£1,295 ono.**  
**07779 455916.**

### MUST BE SEEN

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SXI**

Black, petrol, 52 reg, 84,000 miles, MoT till January 2018, one owner for the last ten years, some service history, always well maintained,

£395 ono.

07732 203327.

VW POLO 1.2

2007, Outstanding condition, long MoT, recent service, sky blue, very economical.

Will accept £1,395.

07789 995305.

### cars over £1500



**AUDI A1 SPORT**

2012, 37,000 miles, metallic black contrast, full leather interior, fish by Audi, 1 lady owner, 2 tone 17ins alloys, Sat Nav. Immaculate.

£9,250 ono.

07773 971115.



### BARGAIN

**BMW 320 SE**

Diesel, 2003, 4-dr, 6 speed, manual, 12 months MoT, high mileage, electric window, Air con, cruise control, parking sensors,

Excellent condition.

£795.

07432 640318.

### 1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

**FORD MONDEO GHIA TDI**

Full MoT.

05 plate, metallic blue.

Very reliable and clean.

£500 ono.

Telephone 07906 283165.

### EXCELLENT CONDITION

**NISSAN MICRA**

**3 DOOR 1.2 PETROL**

2005. Mot May 2018.

Service history.

Very good condition.

£795 ono.

07957 304546 / 01902 743991.

### RELIABLE CAR

**PEUGEOT 206 CC**

2005, 51,000 Miles, Blue, long MoT, metallic paint, pas. Leather interior, JBL Sound, Service history, Call for more details

£1,250 ono

07429098894



**PEUGEOT 307LX**

16V AUTO

2003 reg.

5-dr, black,

87,574 miles.

11 months MOT.

£995 ono

07521 411373.

**SUZUKI ALTO 1.0**

£30 year tax, 2003,

excellent mechanically,

MoT April 2018,

low mileage,

cam belt changed 91,000,

new CV's bottom arms.

£550

07543 919296.

### RENAULT SCENIC AUTHENTIQUE

05 reg, 1.4, petrol, blue, 40,000 miles, MoT November, alloy wheels, front EW, EM, AC, 5 former keepers, new clutch

original radio / CD

£995 ono.

07979 784585.



**SUZUKI SX4 1.6 PETROL**

2006.

11 months MoT.

83,000 Miles.

Excellent condition.

£2,100 ono.

01384 258781.



**TOYOTA AVENTIS**

Diesel, 70,500 miles, one owner from new, FSH, long MoT, all usual extras.

£2,300 ono.

01902 764921.

### THIS COULD BE YOURS

**TOYOTA AGO**

2010, 998cc,

Group 1 insurance,

lots of MoT,

£20 tax per year,

excellent condition.

£1,595

07851 213316.

### MUST BE SEEN

**TOYOTA YARIS 1.3**

2005, 5dr hatchback.

2 lady owners from new.

full MoT, recently serviced.

Service history.

Immaculate condition.

£1,950.

07780 333067.



**VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 I**

16V TECH LINE

5 door, a/c, 2013 reg, 19,917 miles, MoT until October 8, 2017. Full service history,

1 previous owner. Excellent condition.

£6,000 ono.

01902 658795.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA**

R reg, alloys, MoT,

Great condition,

£400.

07488 236404.



**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA**

TOURER

Bi-Turbo Elite, 2.0 CDTi,

195BHP, automatic, 2014 reg,

full dealer service history,

68,000 miles, heated memory leather seats, intelliglink Sat Nav,

power tailgate, privacy glass, Bi Xenons, climate, MoT'd,

serviced, beautiful condition

£10,500.

07971 365912.

### classic cars

**WANTED, CLASSIC Car.** Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered.

01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

### commercial vehicles

**FORD TRANSIT 350**  
 2002, transit 2.4 125BHP mwb, semi hi roof, 109,000 miles, White, diesel, 10 months mot.  
**£1,500 ono.**  
**07931 165422.**

**FORD TRANSIT CONNECT**

T200 LX90, 2007,

MoT January 2018,

172,000 miles,

£1,750.

07768 841443.

### motorbikes

### MUST BE SEEN

**APRILIA RS 125**

2001, 10 months MoT,

Very good condition,

Well maintained.

Full engine rebuild

12465 miles on the clock,

£1,850 ono.

01384 634083. 07796 071219.

**YAMAHA 600 DIVERSION**

2010, 7,000 miles, blue, top box/carrier, very good condition,

£2,800 no offers.

07954 414424.

### scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

**ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT**  
 Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available

0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Oldbury Area.

### vehicles wanted

### alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call.

**01562 711083 / 07831 245313**

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

### spares & accessories

### spares/parts

## THULE HIRE & SALES

Roof Boxes, Roof Bars and Cycle carriers.

BEST PRICES.

Wolves Hire

01902 746723

Tettenhall Road, WV6 0LE

## 9 Local Information

### public & legal notices

### LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

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This is a car engineered to provide a comfortable drive

# Quirky little compact and affordable funky city car

By Simon Davis

Suzuki's Ignis offers buyers an affordable price tag, a fairly generous amount of standard equipment and respectable fuel economy figures from its peppy little 1.2-litre engine that it shares with the Swift. Then, of course, there are those rather quirky looks, which will no doubt appeal to customers who are in the market for a car that stands out from the crowd.

To look at, the little Suzuki 'compact crossover' combines quite a cutesy face with a rather staunch stance – well, as staunch a stance a car this size can manage, anyway. Regardless of your tastes, it does have the effect of giving the Ignis a far more assertive presence on the road than those of its immediate rivals in the city car class.

Inside, the Ignis is a bit of a let-down, with cheap plastics in the cabin. But then again, this is billed as an affordable city runabout, so to complain about less-than-premium materials being used in the interior rather seems to defeat the whole purpose of the car.

Don't expect to be bowled over by the Ignis's practicality. Sure there is enough room in the cabin for four adults, but don't expect them to be massively comfortable for long journeys. Despite the car's rather tall stance, headroom in the back of the Ignis is tight,



The Ignis offers 260 litres of boot space

and taller passengers will find their heads come in contact with the roof. That said, though, knee room isn't too bad at all. For those with small children (who won't mind being in the back of the car), it's worth mentioning that only the entry-level SZ3 Ignis is available with three seats in the second row.

As far as boot space goes, the Ignis offers 260 litres with the rear seats in place, which is more than enough for a week's worth of food shopping.

The Ignis is only available with one engine – the same 1.2-litre petrol unit that's found in the larger Swift. The four-cylinder engine isn't the most powerful, with only 89bhp on tap, but it does a good enough job of getting the big little city car up to speed. The dash, or stroll in this case, from 0-60mph takes 12 seconds, and in cars that feature the SHVS 'mild hybrid' system and four-wheel drive, this drops to 11.3.

One of the first things you'll notice is the fact that you sit rather high up. While this does mean visibility out of the sides and back is excellent, it also gives the impression that the car will roll around a bit more in the corners – which it certainly does. This is a car that has been engineered to provide a comfortable ride, rather than one that is all about out-and-out driving dynamics. Don't get us wrong, though – on British roads it deals with lumps, bumps and uneven surfaces in a composed manner, which is a welcome characteristic.

Around town, the Ignis is an ace little car to drive. Its incredibly light controls make tight manoeuvres a doddle, and thanks to incredibly short overhangs, you're never in too much danger of accidentally pranging into anything. SZ-T and SZ5 models also get a standard-fit rear-view camera that makes parking even easier.

Suzuki hasn't left much room to criticise the Ignis as far as value for money is concerned. Base-spec SZ3 models come with standard features such as DAB radio and Bluetooth connectivity, as well as USB connectivity and a CD player that is MP3 compatible.

Moving up the range, the SZ-T gains larger 16-inch alloys, a touchscreen infotainment system that incorporates satellite navigation and a rear parking camera, while the flagship SZ5 gains LED headlights, keyless entry and climate control.

Running costs aren't horrendous, either. Suzuki claims the SZ5 SHVS 4x4 model that we tested can manage a combined fuel economy figure of 60.1mpg. While we didn't quite manage this, we were still able to average around 52mpg during our time with the Ignis.

It's a fairly comprehensive little car, really, and when you consider that prices for the SZ3 start at just £9,999, it's quite a sensible choice, too.

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Olympic gold medallist Denise Lewis will join Wolverhampton &amp; Bilston's celebrations



Hammer time – rising stars Phoebe Baggot and Molly Walsh



Talented teenage sprinter Ellis Greatrex



Sonia Lannaman will also join the golden anniversary gathering

# Golden girl on track to join anniversary bash

**OLYMPIC champion Denise Lewis MBE will return 'home' to help Wolverhampton & Bilston Athletics Club celebrate their 50th anniversary.**

Lewis heads a list of star-studded athletes who will turn out to mark the special occasion later this year.

The club where Lewis started her glittering career are hosting a glamorous dinner in September to mark the milestone with athletes past and present due to attend.

Lewis, who won heptathlon gold in the 2002 Olympics, will be joined by other famous athletes such as Sonia Lannaman, who won Olympic bronze in the 4x100m relay in Moscow, Jim Auckett and Stephen Pearson.

Aside from her gold in Sydney, Lewis, now aged 44, won bronze in the 1998 games in Atlanta, two silver medals in the World Championships, gold at the European Championships, two golds in the Commonwealth Games and gold and silver in the European Cup.

Other famous athletes to have worn the W&B vest include Don Holliday, Verona Barnard, Maureen Tranter, Rosemary Stirling, Mike Bull, Phil Lewis, Ralph Banthorpe, Kathy Cook and Gary Cook.

Club bosses said it would be great to have former members at the event, taking place on September 30 – who could inspire young athletes to bright careers.

## Inspire

Club president Mary Harding, 65 from Coven, said: "Having the likes of Denise here and others will most definitely inspire future generations.

"Denise started out with us, and look what she has gone on to achieve.

"It is fantastic to be holding the event. There will be some big names who turn up."

Harding has been president of the club for almost 30 years. Before that she represented the club in hammer-throwing.

While W&B is marking its 50th anniversary, its roots go back for more than a century.

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Jamie Brassington

*"I am interested to meet some of the old people I used to train with. I don't think many people realise now how good we were."*

A former version of the club was based at Molineux in 1914, where a track was located around the pitch.

A decade later, Wolverhampton Athletics Club was formed in 1924. Then it merged with Penn Harriers in 1943 to form Wolverhampton Harriers before moving to its current home in Aldersley in 1956.

It came to operate under its current name after Bilston was incorporated into Wolverhampton in 1967 in a reorganisation by local government.

This led Wolverhampton Harriers and Bilston Town Athletic Club merging to form Wolverhampton and Bilston Club.

It was once Great Britain's leading athletics club, winning the men's National League Division One from 1972 to 1982, and Men's National Cup final in 1976, 1977, 1979 and 1980.

It also represented Britain in the European Clubs Cup from 1976 to 1983.

The club has a number of upcoming talented athletes who bosses feel could have a successful future.

Hammer-throwing coach Stephen Pearson believes two of those are Phoebe Baggot, 15, and Molly Walsh 17. Phoebe has previously been a record-breaker during a national tournament involving schools from across the country. At the recent English Schools track & field championships in Birmingham, she reached the final and came third with a throw of 56.32m, ahead of club-mate Molly who was fourth with a distance of 53.15m.

Pearson described them both as having the potential to go on to achieving bright things.

Pearson's son, Benjamin, 23, who has trained at the club, went to the last Commonwealth Games but could not compete due to injury and is still recovering.

Talented teenage sprinter Ellis Greatrex is another one to watch having represented GB at the European Youth Championships. He was also successful in the recent Birmingham contest, winning the 400m in 47.82 secs.

Pearson, who has competed at international level and represented Great Britain, said he was looking forward to meeting some of the club's members with whom he used to train.

"I am interested to meet some of the old people I used to train with," he said.

"I don't think many people realise now how good we were."

The day itself will see members meet at Aldersley Stadium before heading off to WV1 bar for the meal.

And a number of W&B athletes will gather at the race track to run a mile in memory of the late commentator and broadcaster David Coleman, who was honorary club president from 1982-93.

The dinner will be combined the club's track and field presentations which will honour the achievements of its athletes across different competitions.

## Tickets

Tickets are yet to go on sale, but will be priced at £15 for adults and £5 for under 20s. Priority will be given to past and present club members.

To reserve tickets call Mary Harding on 07809 645790 or email mary@wolvesandbilston.co.uk

The club is hoping to attract new recruits by staging a variety of athletics-based activities during the summer holidays.

They are aimed at six-to-16-year-olds and are being held at Aldersley Stadium, from 9am to 2pm between July 31 and August 4 and from August 14 to 18.

Cost is £30 for the week per person. Contact Tobias Nwenwu on 07445 359546, email Tnwenwu@hotmail.co.uk, ring the stadium direct on 01902 556200 or email www.wolvesandbilston.co.uk

## Superbikers roar to best ever race results

SNETTERTON was a weekend to remember for the region's British Superbike riders who either made the podium or posted their best ever results.

Hednesford's Kurt Wigley put a disappointing round at Knockill behind him to post a fantastic eighth and sixth-place finishes.

The 21-year-old is now 15th in the table on 27 points.

Josh Hiatt, 14, who lives just up the road from Wigley in Heath Hayes, also posted his best ever results in the British KTM Cup walking away with a 14th and 11th place finish, to sit 14th in the championship.

Brierley Hill-born Michael Rutter started from third place on the grid in the National Superstock 1000cc championships but lost his place off the line to Chrissy Rouse.

By lap three he had lost another spot to a flying Mason Law but by the 14th the 45-year-old had caught and passed Rouse and, on the final lap, went passed Richard Cooper to cross the line in third spot for another podium, keeping him third in the championship table.

## Tournament praise handed out to girls

NEARLY 100 girls took part in the finals day at a first-of-its-kind handball tournament in Wolverhampton.

All the schools involved at Aldersley Stadium are part of the Cameron Homes Initiative, a three-year programme developed by the house builders. It has provided £45,000 to boost the sport and encourage girls to get involved.

Qualifying tournaments played in the West Midlands, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire involved more than 200 girls and provided winners from each region to compete at the finals at under 13 and under 15.

The under-15 tournament provided Newport Girls High School in Shropshire with a clear victory over Bishop Walsh of Sutton Coldfield, with Blessed Robert Sutton of Burton-on-Trent finishing third.

In a dramatic under-13 final, Newport Girls High School scored the winning goal with one minute remaining to beat Arthur Terry School of Aldridge.

## Chase pays off as Boro bag Westwood

FORMER Wolverhampton Sporting hotshot Dan Westwood has been snapped up by Stafford Rangers. The Marston Road club ended a year-long chase for the prolific forward following its release from AFC Telford United.

Westwood, aged 26, caught the attention of plenty of non-league clubs with his goalscoring exploits for Sporting, of West Midlands Premier. He smashed 100 goals in just 72 games, and netted 60 last term before jumping up five divisions to join The Bucks in National League North.

The Wolverhampton-based teacher had little game time there and was told he could leave after former Hednesford Town boss Rob Smith was sacked and replaced by ex-Wolves coach Rob Edwards.

Westwood has dropped a division to join Evo-Stik Premier side Boro, who have also signed Bradley Fortnam-Tomlinson and Tommy Cooney. Boss Neil Kitching said: "We have chased him for 12 months.

"As soon as we knew he was leaving Telford, we jumped at the chance to get him in."





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## Pearson is backing new track plan

CRADLEY Heathens director Nigel Pearson says speedway is more environmentally friendly than ever before and is backing plans for a new track in Oldbury.

The Heathens Speedway Supporters Trust announced last week they had submitted a planning application to Sandwell MBC.

Pearson and fellow club bosses have been trying to secure a site for the past eight years but have faced constant setbacks.

He believes the Trust are making encouraging steps and has wished them well in their quest to give the world famous club their own home track for the first time since the closure of Dudley Wood back in 1995.

Pearson said: "A new home is all anyone has ever wanted during the time the Heathens have been back on track. I was delighted when I got the news an outline planning application had gone in. I've even stopped off to take a look at the site myself."

"People have to remember the sport is more environmentally friendly than it has been ever before. I like the fact they're referring to an acoustic barrier and the location being a natural bowl. They're making the right noises with those kinds of statements."

"It frustrates me that speedway has an image of being a loud, dirty sport when environmentally it's more friendly than it's ever been before. You'd find that the noise of 15 speedway races is less than that of the Birmingham New Road."

Meanwhile, Pearson is determined to see them bolster their Travel Plus National League play-off push on the track when they host Stoke at Monmore Green on Monday.

## Swim team are pipped by a point

HALESOWEN Swimmers travelled to Oak Park for the final round of the Merican League and a couple of 'old hands' earned valuable points. Head coach Steve Hickman competed in the open age group 100m breaststroke and 100m individual medley and was joined by assistant Ade Worton in the freestyle and medley relays. Halesowen missed out on victory by one point to Orion.

Chloe Robbins won the open age 100m individual medley; Caleb Darby, won 10 and under boys 50m freestyle; the 12 and under girls relay team (Eleanor Stark, Libby Hickman, Audrey Hackett and Erin O'Grady) proved unbeatable in both freestyle and medley relays, as did 14 year boys relay team of Oliver Bradley-Wood, James Gaskin, Dermot Cameron and Greg Sheppard. Ten and under boys won the medley relay (Jack Everton, Jack South, Caleb Darby and Ryan Worton). There were individual wins for Adam Ryan, Greg Sheppard, Audrey Hackett and James Gaskin.

## Fighter flies Black Country flag in Ireland



Jee Johal and the contingent from Priory Park

JEE Johal kept up the gold rush for Priory Park Boxing Club at the Monkstown Box Cup in their second annual visit to Ireland.

He was one of a six-strong fighting squad from the Dudley-based gym that made the trip to compete at the open tournament.

They were joined by coaches Warren Davies, Peter Upton and Brian Gwilt at a competition

where they had enjoyed success the previous year.

Josh Jeavons, Connor Jones and James Mongan all won gold in 2016, but only Jeavons would be involved this time around.

Johal turned out to be the golden boy, with Jeavons and Kian Palmer settling for silver. Joe Gwilt, Ben Collins and Rahmatullah Sher were competitive.

Johal has come on leaps and bounds since switching from Wednesbury Boxing Club and has only lost once in Priory colours, that in a national semi-final.

That solitary defeat last year came after winning the West Midlands title in what is now becoming the England Boys and Girls Championships this year.

# HALES BOUNCE BACK AT HOME

HALESOWEN bounced back to winning ways in convincing fashion with an eight-wicket win over Coventry and North Warwickshire at Seth Somers Park.

Dylan Ross-Watt (5-38) and Eddie Rhodes (4-47) starred with the ball as the home side dismissed the visitors for just 97.

Ed Kilbee then struck 54 to lift them up to fourth place in the table ahead of this weekend's trip to C&R Hawks (12 noon).

And club captain Richard Brooker was delighted with their fine victory on a busy day which saw the club host their first ever beer festival.

Brooker said: "It was a very pleasing result for the club and although the gap to the promotion places remains at 50 points we have 10 games to go, a team that's buzzing and we have to play all the teams above us."

### Rooted

"So we have plenty to look forward to starting with C&R Hawks next weekend, where we need to be bang at it."

The second XI remain rooted to the bottom of the table after a 111 run defeat to Shifnal. Their young side were dismissed for 114 in response to 224, falling short in their bid to save the game and leaving them 35 points adrift of safety ahead of a home game with Kenilworth Wardens on Saturday (12.30).

Meanwhile, the third XI were boosted by a return to form for Chris Jones, who took 6-15 to bowl West Malvern out for just 78 and seal a 28-run victory.

Finally, the fourth XI went down at Astwood Bank, falling well short of a 331 target with a score of 227 in response.

The thirds will host Hallow CC at Earls High School on Saturday (1pm) whilst the fourth XI head to Kempsey (1pm).

## Jordanne's fourth Wimbledon win



Wimbledone wonders - Jordanne Whiley, left, and Yui Kamiji, women's wheelchair doubles champions

HALESOWEN'S Jordanne Whiley and Japan's Yui Kamiji recovered from a slow start to win the Wimbledon women's wheelchair doubles for a fourth successive year.

They secured a 2-6 6-3 6-0 victory over the Dutch pairing of Marjolein Buis and Diede de Groot.

Whiley, from Halesowen, who has brittle bone disease, has established a highly successful partnership with a player she describes as her 'bestie'.

It was Kamiji who hit the winning forehand down the centre of the court as Whiley joined men's doubles winners Gordon Reid and Alfie Hewett in being a home wheelchair champion.

Whiley, 25, said: "This is by far the most special to me because I've been out for eight months, struggling with injury. I haven't played with Yui for a year now, and I really did try my hardest."

## Halesowen Town fixtures 2017/18

August	
12.....	Workington (A)
15.....	Barwell (H)
19.....	Farsley Celtic (H)
22.....	Hednesford Town (A)
26.....	Buxton (A)
28.....	Sutton Coldfield Town (H)
September	
5.....	Stafford Rangers (H)
9.....	Ashton United (A)
12.....	Witton Albion (H)
19.....	Grantham Town (A)
23.....	Warrington Town (H)
26.....	Stalybridge Celtic (A)
30.....	Workington (H)
October	
3.....	Barwell (A)
7.....	Stourbridge (A)
10.....	Hednesford Town (H)
14.....	Shaw Lane (A)
21.....	Lancaster City (H)
31.....	Coalville Town (H)
November	
4.....	Rushall Olympic (A)
18.....	Marine (H)
25.....	Matlock Town (A)
December	
2.....	Whitby Town (H)
9.....	Altrincham (A)
16.....	Nantwich Town (H)
23.....	Farsley Celtic (A)
26.....	Mickleover Sports (H)
30.....	Buxton (H)
January	
1.....	Sutton Coldfield Town (A)
6.....	Grantham Town (H)
13.....	Witton Albion (A)
20.....	Shaw Lane (H)
27.....	Lancaster City (A)
February	
3.....	Whitby Town (A)
10.....	Rushall Olympic (H)
17.....	Marine (A)
24.....	Matlock Town (H)
March	
3.....	Coalville Town (A)
17.....	Nantwich Town (A)
24.....	Altrincham (H)
31.....	Stourbridge (H)
April	
2.....	Mickleover Sports (A)
7.....	Stafford Rangers (A)
14.....	Ashton United (H)
21.....	Warrington Town (H)
28.....	Stalybridge Celtic (H)

## Jamie edged out in BDO Open final

TIPTON darter Jamie Hughes reached the final of the Winmau BDO Wolverhampton Open but was beaten 6-2 by Scot Ross Montgomery. The 31-year-old, who was born in West Bromwich, beat Graham Elvidge, Joshua Richardson, Nick Kenny from Wales, and Glen McGrandle from Scotland en route to the final at Wolverhampton Indoor Community Sports Centre on Racecourse Road on Sunday. But Montgomery proved one step too far for the World Championship semi-finalist.

On Saturday, reigning BDO world champion Glen Durrant won the Wolverhampton Classic, beating Liam Kelly 6-2 in the final. There were more than 130 entrants.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, July 20, 2017

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